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JOHN BULL

Vol. X. No. 248. SATURDAY. MARCH 4. 1911. ONE PENNY.

[Registered at the G P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see Page ii. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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Avondale Avenue, Finchley;
Paignton, Devonshire;
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To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL **of specified date,** bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production within seven days of publication (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all work done.

The following claims have been received for the issues of January 14th and 21st:—

P. G. BURTENSHAW, 45, Rosebery Street, Prince's Avenue, Liverpool. No. 185,731. January 14th.

T. KEENAN, City of Newcastle Asylum, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne. No. 167,164. January 21st.

FRANK ARNOLD, 24, Samuel Street, Stockton-on-Tees. No. 214,484. January 21st.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of February 4th:—

2435	115051	210021	376224	484869
17304	115826	218119	384970	498691
27645	112055	223679	393067	509759
57584	143603	235909	409102	510362
65608	156548	242029	421654	519715
74814	162853	270349	427290	529157
80356	171042	324482	444099	541523
90022	184445	335414	459797	567515
97087	193855	364065	468619	597849
104669	198845	371861	482409	615896

INITIAL NOUGHTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED, BUT FINAL ONES ARE, OF COURSE, RECKONED.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED APRIL 1ST (PUBLISHED MARCH 30TH).

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The General Secretary,
93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member of the
JOHN BULL LEAGUE,
and send me a Membership Badge, for which I enclose P.O. for 6d.

Name .....

Address .....

....

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. X. No. 248. Saturday, March 4th, 1911. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, at 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.; according to whether they relate to Editorial or Business matters.

All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

TO ADVERTISERS.

All applications for advertising spaces to be made to Messrs. Odhams Ltd., Advertising Dept., 67, Long Acre, London, W.C.

DALY'S THEATRE. Every Evening at 8, Mr. GEORGE EDWARDES' New Production of a WALTZ DREAM. New Librettc by BASIL HOOD. Music by OSCAR STRAUS. Matinée Every Saturday at 2. Tel. 201 Gerrard.

The John Bull League.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE BRANCH.

EX-LIEUT. ALLAN SUTOR
WILL DELIVER AN ADDRESS ON
"THE ARMY—FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT,"
IN
THE TOWN HALL, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
TO-NIGHT (THURSDAY, MARCH 2nd).
Doors open 7.30, Commence at 8.30 p.m. ADMISSION FREE.

LIVERPOOL BRANCH.

A GRAND WHIST DRIVE
LIVERPOOL ASSEMBLY ROOMS, HARDMAN STREET.
TO-NIGHT (THURSDAY, MARCH 2nd).
Commence at 7.30 sharp.
Tickets, price 1s. 6d. (including refreshments), can be obtained from the Hon. Local Secretary, Mr. G. S. Haines, of 48, Woodlands Road, Aigburth, Liverpool, S.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

THE PRESIDENT (HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, Esq., M.P.)
WILL ADDRESS A PUBLIC MEETING IN
LEEDS TOWN HALL,
TO-MORROW (FRIDAY, MARCH 3rd.)
Doors open at 7 p.m. Commence at 8.
Organ Recital by MR. H. A. FRICKER, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O.
(City Organist.)
Vocalist.—MR. STEWART GARDNER.
ADMISSION FREE.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD BRANCH.

A PUBLIC MEETING
WILL BE HELD IN THE
PUBLIC HALL, CHEETHAM HILL,
WEDNESDAY, MARCH, 8th, at 8 p.m.
Chairman.—COUNCILLOR H. ROSS CLYNE.
Various important matters of local interest will be dealt with, including:—
The utilisation of the old Infirmary site.
The necessity for a Second Stipendiary Magistrate.
The extension of hours of workmen's cars.
Doors open at 7.30. Admission Free.

HULL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

GRAND SMOKING CONCERT (in aid of local charities)
GROSVENOR HOTEL, CARR LANE, HULL.
THURSDAY, MARCH 9th, at 8 p.m.
Tickets (price 3d.) may be obtained from the Hon. Local Secretary, Mr. W. E. Petty, of 96, Woodcock Street, Newington, Hull.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

We are on the eve of many remarkable changes. The Party system is on its last legs, the hereditary principle of Government is doomed, the veto of the Upper House is to be permanently limited to measures of constitutional change, and the franchise is to be largely extended. Such is a concise summary of what will be the outcome of the present row.

NO CRISIS.

Meanwhile, there is no crisis. The situation leaves the Man in the Street "quite cold." He knows it will come all right in the end. The days of political revolution, so far as this country is concerned, are gone for ever.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

Several important changes are imminent. Mr. Haldane has had enough of the War Office. Colonel Seely will not continue to play second fiddle in the Commons to Mr. Harcourt; even "Honest John" is tiring of his present job: and Mr. McKenna is under notice.

MR. ASQUITH'S DILEMMA.

As we predicted weeks ago (contrary to the view of the *Times* and other journals), the Lords have decided to counter the Parliament Bill by the immediate introduction of a Second Chamber Reform scheme—thus giving life and reality to the preamble of the Government measure, which declares the necessity for a new Upper House. This step will put the cat amongst the ministerial pigeons, and will try the ingenuity of the Prime Minister to the uttermost; half his supporters, including the whole of the Irish and Labour parties, being dead against reform.

OUR FREE CORONATION SEATS.

There is, of course, an enormous rush for these, but no allotments can be made until all the sites have been definitely chosen. Readers will find full particulars of the scheme on page 349.

A FREE HOUSE OF FURNITURE.

We direct the special attention of our readers to *Mrs. Bull's* unique offer of a Free House of Furniture, and many valuable consolation prizes, in connection with a scheme for further popularising her journal. As our readers may be aware, there is a friendly, but, at the same time, keen struggle going on between our "sister" journal—(no Biscuit, please!)—and ourselves, she being desirous of reaching a regular weekly circulation of half-a-million before we touch the round million. At present, the match looks like resulting in a dead heat.

Accidents Will Happen.

A soldier in the Royal Irish Rifles, now at Maymijo, n Burma, sends us a copy of a cinematograph show announcement in the Theatre Room of that regiment. "Programme. Star Pictures. A New Selection of Films (containing 16). Doors open at 1.30 p.m. Commencing at 9 p.m. Rates: Re.1 and Annas 8. Owing to the Gas Tank being broken it stops us from showing a Grand Set of Pictures. T. John and Coy." Think of waiting 7½ hours to see a cinematograph performance with a broken gas tank.

He that Hath.

Members of the Edinburgh City Council seem very lavish in their presents to their higher officials, but exceptionally mean to their poorer subordinates, who in many cases do much of the work for which the already well-paid superiors get all the kudos, as well as all the cash. It is a vicious business principle on the part of any great organisation to have the staff revelling in fatness at the top and seething with discontent at the bottom. We are informed (not by himself) that there is one clerk who has been doing responsible work in the Edinburgh Corporation service for nearly forty years, and he is still being paid—thirty shillings a week. It is not a credit to the members that they should give so much to their officials, and so little to their poorer clerks, who, in common fairness, are more entitled to increases. True, it is written that he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken away even that which he hath—but the Edinburgh City Council are not obliged to do it.

More About Scotch.

From Edinburgh to Perth. Before us is a cookery book, issued with the object of helping a bazaar held in Perth by the West United Frees. Opposite the index is an advertisement picturing a wine bottle, and by the side we read, "Wine Merchants to the United Free Kirk." Who are its whisky merchants, we should like to know? By the way, the steeple of the West United Free Church at Perth was built by four wine and whisky merchants, and is locally known as the Whisky Steeple. Marvellous to relate, it is as strong to-day as if it had been built by four manufacturers of unmitigated pop.

Mormons at Bradford.

The Mormons are busy in Bradford, and there is considerable feeling on account of the Baths Committee of the Corporation having granted the use of one of the baths for a baptismal ceremony, at which about a dozen "converts"—all women—were immersed, one of them collapsing in the water, and being carried away in a dead faint. The only satisfactory feature of the thing is that the Church of England and the Nonconformists are uniting against the common foe. They don't mean to let baptisms go out of the family, so to speak; but once united for one purpose, they may find it convenient to go on working together. Then Sect, like Party, will be doomed.

Paisley Puritans.

The Paisley Town Council has been much agitated over a wicked proposal that they should let the Town Hall on an early Sunday evening for a concert in aid of the Scottish Musical Artistes' Benevolent Fund. It was the special duty, said one fervid Christian Councillor, "to guard with care the sacred inheritance handed down by their forefathers, and to hold fast that which was good." This smug view commended itself to the majority of the Council—wherefore poor Scottish musical artistes may starve. It may be a terrible sin to hold a concert on Sunday, but we seem to have read somewhere that Charity covereth a multitude of moral backsliding. As for the Puritan Sunday being a sacred inheritance—well, anyone may have *our* share of it.

Surrey Police Grievances.

We are in no way surprised at the chronic dissatisfaction in the Surrey Police. It is with difficulty kept under boiling point; when it does boil, the Surrey Joint Committee, or whoever is responsible, may take it from us that it will boil over. The grievances are many, but let us take one or two. A month or two ago, a police-constable of 21 years' service was ordered to resign because he had entered a public-house while off duty, against the monstrous rule forbidding constables to do so. Then there is the grievance in regard to pay-days. Two or three days before Christmas the men received a cheque for 14 days' pay; they had to wait until January 16th for the next pay-day, so that 14 days' money had to keep them for 21 days, and this with Christmas week in; and then, on January 16th, when they did get paid, that was only money due to the end of December, so that the County authority had 16 days' pay in hand. Add to this the fact that the men have to produce their rent-books for inspection every pay-day, and it will be easily understood that they are very sore at the scurvy treatment they receive from the authorities. It is high time the autocratic and arbitrary system under which the Surrey County Police work was thoroughly overhauled.

That Cryptogram!

Referring to our recent article on the mystery of Shakespeare, one of our readers calls attention to a certain string of letters "thrown into the text of 'Love's Labour Lost,' without any connection with the play." He wonders whether any of our classical readers could so transpose the letters into Latin words as to make them read, in English, "These Plays by Francis Bacon." Here are the letters:—HONORIFICABILITUDINITATIBUS. We have heard something like this before.

What Is This?

An East-end clergyman's wife writes:—"Could you possibly do something to stir up the Old Age Pension officials? Several of the pensioners residing in this parish and its immediate neighbourhood have not received their pensions for some weeks owing to the failure of the officials to renew their books. One pensioner has just called upon me saying she has had no pension for the last three weeks. I am sure if you would draw the attention of the authorities to it this defect might be remedied." We certainly will stir up somebody.

The Akbar School Scandal.

The result of this Enquiry is in every way most unsatisfactory. It all comes about through sending down such an inexperienced individual as Mr. Masterman to conduct the proceedings. These youthful Ministers should be restricted to dancing attendance on their Parliamentary chiefs. More will be heard of the matter. Meanwhile, we congratulate Mr. Masterman on the fact that we were unable to be in the House during the debate on Mr. Atherley-Jones's motion.

The Cinematograph Trade and "G. R. S."

We were present the other evening at the annual dinner of this trade, at the Hotel Cecil, and were struck by the ramifications into which the new industry has already spread. One of the most interesting guests was "Dagonet"—the most prolific and wonderful journalist of our age. As we watched his now worn and weary face, we wondered who there is to take his place, and could think of none. He is unique.

Our Canadian Commissioners.

We have now despatched two Commissioners to the Dominion. Their Reports will give the truth about things out there, from both a political and an economic view.

IMPERIAL GRATITUDE.

A strange story comes over from India. It appears that during the German Crown Prince's tour, H.I.H. was confronted by a wild elephant, and, being armed with only a small bore rifle, was about to lose his life. At this critical juncture, "a British official named Murty fired from close behind the Prince's ear and killed the elephant." The heir to a great empire was saved, and it might be imagined that he would have shed tears of joy, flung himself on the neck of his preserver, and vowed eternal gratitude. Not a bit of it. Let us listen to the laconic report: "The Prince swung round and said 'Damn!'" While congratulating H.I.H. on his command of our language, we fail to appreciate his precise state of mind. Did he regard Mr. Murty as a spoil-sport?

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION WILES.

Here is a strange experience. An advertisement for an experienced poultry-man appeared in the *Daily Mail*. One of our correspondents replied, and received a long interrogatory, to which he made careful answer. After a delay of three weeks, he was informed that the post had been filled up before the interrogations were sent out, but he was begged to read a circular and invited to join a party starting for Canada on April 4th. The circular contains alluring pictures of delightful little cottages to be obtained on easy terms at a place called Kirkella in Manitoba; and there are glowing accounts of the happy existence out there for all who love an outdoor life. As a mere detail, however, the circular mentions "a word of caution: those only who are *ready to face trouble* with a steady and calm perseverance are wanted (Kirkella is but wild prairie land at present)." Surely in vain the net is spread in sight of any bird!

THEOLOGY IN THE KITCHEN.

Some Nonconformist ministers seem to lack a sense of proportion. This is not exactly a startling piece of news, but is strikingly illustrated by the *Daily Mirror*, which reports a minister, with 40 years' experience of London religious work, as having publicly stated: "I sometimes feel I would rather bury than marry girls who cannot cook." In other words, if a girl cannot cook, it were better for her that a millstone were hanged about her neck and she cast into the sea. Why this extravagant apotheosis of the culinary art? Wisdom may be above rubies, but what theology can establish the superiority of cookery over honesty, chastity, love, honour, obedience and the other harmless, necessary virtues which are expected in a wife? We fear the reverend gentleman must suffer from a high stomach and a greedy mind.

SUPERANNUATION DONE HERE.

It is one of our queer views that the teacher is of even more importance to a nation than the policeman. The country does not sufficiently realise the value of the elementary teacher in the national economy, and this side of the Millennium it may be questioned whether it ever will. Not realising all the teacher does for the State, the State does very little for the teacher. As the case stands at present, for instance, a teacher may pay £3 or £4 a year for thirty years, and then receive about £30 as his pension. A certain headmaster in a Kent village school has put in a service of 36 years. His salary is £120, and he has had to retire at 65 on a fourth of that sum. As the Board of Education does not recognise for pension a portion of any year served, the last ten months in this master's service are not included, but the department nevertheless takes good care to stop the contribution for the superannuation. The State might find means to treat its teachers as least as well as it treats its policemen.

A DENTIST'S CIRCULAR.

One of our readers in the Avenue des Petits Coqs, Antwerp, sends us a copy of a dentistry circular, which has been posted to him. "I beg to inform you," says the dentist, "that my American Dentisterie is established for all kind of painless operation, bridges, gold villing, dental surgeons, artificial teeth on latest American system without plates or springs (disciple of the dental institute from Philadelphy. Englisch, German, and French spoken." If that man's dentistry is as painful as his English, we pity his patients.

ALL VERY WELL TO LAUGH.

Our Antwerp friend also sends an amusing instance of what a foreigner can do with English when applying for a situation. "I have hear," he wrote, "that the son of the last chareman of the aftergoing society had leave your house, and therefore the supposition has been vacant and arround that I allow myself to sue myself for this position. Borne on the August 30th, 1890, I have visited the primary school on this place to the highest class. After leaving the school I aroused as apprenticeship in the forwarding house of ——— and sewed ones time at the March 31st, 1908. During this time I have improved one's mind in all office works, expedition in the principally. . . . I should like this supposition to widen my knowledge, and am over-clothed, therefore, that I would lift up the position in your office esteemed." It is all very well to laugh at such things; but probably there are not over many English lads of the same age who could do much better if they were applying for a situation in Germany.

THE QUARTER-DECK MANNER.

A firm of brewers in Portsea have issued a wall-poster which depicts a man in evening dress with a bottle of beer hung round his neck, the wording beneath being "I will have it in front of me." This poster does not suit Admiral Field, C.B., the chairman of the Gosport Licensing Sessions, and the other day, from his place on the bench, he attacked the representative of the brewery firm in the most violent and gratuitous way; even threatening that he would write to the Urban Council, Parliament, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer "to stop this sort of thing." What the chairman of the Gosport Licensing Sessions, the Urban Council, Parliament, or Mr. Lloyd George has to do with this poster, goodness alone knows; what specially there is in it to rouse the savage breast in any case is not clear. We have on a previous occasion called attention to the quarter-deck manner of Admiral Field on the Gosport bench, and it seems about time that his colleagues put the big hat on him if they wish to escape their share of responsibility for his bluster. The chairmanship of the Licensing Sessions certainly does not carry with it the censorship of wall-posters. When it does, we shall be proud to admit our gallant and distinguished friend's qualifications for the job.

WRATH IN LEEDS.

About 2,000 amateur photographers will probably be affected to the extent of 10s. a year by the propoed new water charges of the Leeds Corporation. Some of them threaten to rise in their wrath. Being photographers, however, they will probably take an amiable view of it.

NO MORMONS FOR WINCHESTER.

Two Mormon missionaries recently arrived in Winchester to spread the joys of Utah in the city. A protest meeting was quickly arranged and advertised, and lo, before the meeting was held, the dear brethren were gone. At the meeting, Colonel Clowes said he was ready to head a party to kick the Mormons out of the city if they appeared again. This is the martial spirit; but why kick? Has not Winchester tar and feathers?

The Oakes.

Upon one or two former occasions we have noticed the peculiar way in which the Oakes are being run on the Bermondsey Borough Council. Young Oake—very young Oake—has a father, Councillor Oake, and possibly as a tribute to Oake, the father, Oake, the son, some time ago was voted to the position of junior swich-board attendant, severe criticism of the appointment notwithstanding. Since then, the Electricity Committee have carefully marked the pilgrim's progress, and when there was a vacancy for the post of third engineer in charge, it fortuitously happened that Oake, the son, was the most capable person out of 174 applicants, 54 being selected for second consideration, but not interviewed. In these circumstances, we cannot pretend to any surprise that, in the opinion of the majority of the Council, the pace of Oake, the son, is a trifle too hot, and that they have referred the matter back to the Committee with instructions to bring three names before the full Council. Not that the ratepayers of Bermondsey need attach overmuch importance to this decision, for it is all the world to a gooseberry on Oake.

The Stonehouse Heirloom.

From Camberwell to Stonehouse is not far; and at Stonehouse the Guardians have appointed Mr. R. Robinson Rodd, junior, deputy clerk to his father. "It is interesting to recall the fact," says the local paper, "that the appointment is the fourth in the Rodd family, the present clerk's grandfather having been appointed in 1835." How talent does run in some families!

Wanted, A Man.

A Berwick minister, the Rev. W. E. Lee to wit, has lost customers at his church since he delivered a sermon on "Can a man live on £1 a week?" How he answered the question we know not, but it is clear he startled the congregation, for, as he told the Brotherhood the other P.S.A., several of them have not since returned to church. His address to the Brotherhood was entitled "Wanted, a Man." "In the House of Commons they wanted one to plead for principles and not for party," he said, "for parties were ruled by vested interests. Only by the breaking up of the party system and giving every member a right to vote according to his conscience should we be freed from the growing dominance of trusts and monopolies." Our rev. brother will peradventure recall that one Diogenes Laertius once went forth in the daylight with a lighted candle, and that when his friends asked why he was fooling around in that way, he said he was looking for a man. Candidly, there are not many men about; pulpits and Parliament generally preferring old ladies.

Snow-plough and Moonshine.

Portland being in the extreme South of England, a fall of snow is a rarity. The last one occurred in 1881, and yet at a recent meeting of the Urban District Council the surveyor was empowered to purchase a snow-plough. When the uselessness of the thing was pointed out by some of the members, it was retorted that the plough "would only cost £7 10s.," which strikes us as a somewhat crazy sort of argument. However, the Council have got their plough; and there are rumours that the meetings are now opened with prayers for snow. By the way, though Portland has 14,000 inhabitants, contains a regiment of soldiers, and is the headquarters of the Home Fleet, it is one of those places where the street lamps are never lighted when the moon is supposed to shine—but very often doesn't. A frequent complaint of the inhabitants is that they dare not go home in the dark—especially, we understand, amongst the married men!

Generosity.

The Comptroller and Auditor-General of the Navy points out that the men who were drowned in submarine C11 on the night of July 14th, 1909, were advanced two weeks' pay before leaving Grimsby. As the men were drowned before they could repay the money, they were in debt to the Crown at the time of their death, but "in the exceptional circumstances the proceeds of the sale of their effects have not been taken to liquidate their debts." Marvellous generosity, isn't it? But we fancy that the question we put in the House at the time had something to do with it.

A Silly Decision.

After a football match between Runcorn and Oldham, two spectators were summoned for assaulting one of the Oldham players, who was knocked senseless as he was leaving the ground. Instead of dealing with the case, the Chairman of the Bench made the silly remark that the magistrates did not wish a court of justice to be used "to settle football squabbles," and announced that the case would be adjourned until May, "when the football season would be over." Why not have postponed it over the Coronation?

Sweated Sub-Postmasters.

It will be news to many that there is a considerable number of sub-postmasters who are paid only a few shillings a week for their services, and that for this inexorbitant salary they have to be on duty from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., and to lay out money in equipment. The official argument to justify the sweating of sub-postmasters is probably that, though the direct remuneration is small, the in direct benefits are considerable, as Post Office business brings custom to the shop. To some extent this is no doubt true, but on the other side of the account has to be set the fact that the multitude of postmasters already in possession of premises bring to the State an enormous revenue, while relieving it of an enormous cost. The balance-sheet fairly made out, it must be said that, having regard to their services and responsibilities, sub-postmasters are miserably paid.

John Daly.

In February, 1884, there was a plot to blow up four London railway stations by means of clockwork infernal machines containing dynamite, brought from America. Three Irish-Americans were convicted, and one, John Daly, was sentenced to penal servitude for life, but was liberated a few years ago. This eminent gentleman has now written to the manager of the Irish Provincial Bank to say he is compelled to withdraw his custom because at a recent directors' meeting, Professor Hull, F.R.S., said that wherever a branch of the bank is established, there the flag of the Constitution and loyalty to the Crown was hoisted. "Now," says Mr. Daly, of the bank, "I realise as a rebel to the Crown that its chief mission is the maintenance of British rule and British 'liberty,' I am compelled in principle to sever all connection with it." Does he intend for the future to carry his financial resources in his hat?

A Quick Climb Down.

Dr. Tristram has done a quick climb down in his dispute with the Lord Bishop of London about marriage licences. Now, apparently, marriage licences within the diocese of London will not be issued without his lordship's approval and consent. Presumably, he will refuse to issue them in the case of deceased wives' sisters and parties to a divorce, innocent or guilty; which will sooner or later raise a pretty argument for the courts. The Bishop's notion that he has power to grant or refuse licences to marry at his own whim and will is certainly a novel proposition, which needs judicial elucidation.

"AN ACT OF PROVIDENCE."

"Can you inform me," asks a Greenock reader, "what is really the matter with Lloyd George? I wonder if it is an act of Providence that has befallen him after such speeches as he has made?" We believe the answer is that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been suffering from a sore throat—his vocal organs not being of the strongest, as was shown by his breakdown in the middle of his Budget speech. As regards the "act of Providence," we would direct the attention of our Greenock reader to the fact that last Sunday week two ministers of religion dropped down dead in their pulpits. What sort of an "act" was that, we wonder?

TRAILERS ON TRAMS.

A working man reader (and what a lot of them we are happy to possess!) thinks that instead of adding upwards of a thousand pounds to the salaries of its officials, the L.C.C. might have "put a trailer on the workmen's cars morning and evening, to assist the poor ratepayers." He describes how, the car being full, he recently saw men and women standing in the rain, in Kennington Road, and suggests that we should follow the example of Germany in this matter.

AN ESTIMATES COMMITTEE ASSURED.

We have reason to believe that the Prime Minister will authorise Mr. Haldane to announce, in the debate upon Mr. J. M. Henderson's Motion upon going into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates, that it has been decided to set up a Standing Committee on Estimates.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

She was a sad-looking woman of middle age, who had just "confessed" to the Priest a little act of moral backsliding. "When did it occur?" asked he. "Twenty years ago," came the reply. "Then why haven't you confessed before?" "I have, Father—many times; *I do so love talking about it.*"

THE PARTY SYSTEM.

A LITTLE SUGGESTION THAT MIGHT BE ADOPTED BY THOSE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHOSE SPEECHES RARELY EXCEED THE ABOVE WORDS, AND WHO FIND IT A BIT OF A FAG TO ATTEND THE HOUSE TO SAY EVEN THAT.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

AGE.—Biscuits are not given to general servants "2 to 224," or to veterans of 8 years of age. The ages of the former are often inscrutable, while the latter may be enjoying their second childhood.

PATENT MEDICINES.—We do not give biscuits to patent medicine vendors for the injunction to the public to get "the same pills as Mr. Robinson had."

BRIDEGROOMS.—No more wedding cake for these harmless necessary adjuncts when they go away "in a costume of rose vieux, trimmed with glace, with a hat to match." They evidently foresee who is destined to wear the breeches, and they are lucky to get away at all.

MARRIAGES IN THE DEATHS' COLUMN.—No biscuits for these. They are often the grave of love.

LODGERS.—No biscuits for widows who want young men to share room. Most of them do.

For announcing "Supplies to the Cheyne Hospital for CHILDREN OVER 30 YEARS,"
WRIGHT'S DAIRY (44-48, Church Street, Chelsea)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, "Successful advertising may be the making or MARRING *of great commercial undertakings,"*
THE EVENING ARGUS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the following terms, under the heading "Enterprise in Claremorris," his purchase of a bacon-slicing machine: "This wonderful machine can be seen at work, and although very expensive, I have decided NOT TO CHARGE ANYTHING FOR MY BACON AND HAMS,"
Mr. T. J. KEANE (Grocer, Claremorris, Co. Mayo)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising for tenders "for the Supply of Six Yellow Oilskin Outfits FOR WORKMEN OF GUARANTEED IRISH MANUFACTURE, *Hats, Pants, and Jackets, 33 inches long, All Double,"*
Mr. THOMAS BYRNE (Secretary to the Drogheda Harbour Commissioners)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For circulating a leaflet, entitled "Character of the Latter-day Saints," including among the advantages of Utah "The penalties AGAINST *chastity, morality, and decency are exceptionally severe,"*
THE MORMON MISSIONARIES
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For saying of Mr. James Geddes, a witness in a recent divorce case, that he "lived in the same house in ANOTHER *part of the town,"*
THE UMPIRE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following sentence in its report of the Hutchison case, "We played a game of 100 *up, and we finished* EVEN,"
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For the following statement, "*DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS A PROFESSIONAL BLACKMAILER, Mr. JUSTICE AVORY *at the Old Bailey sentenced Walter Smith, 30, formerly a trooper in the South African Constabulary, to twenty months' hard labour,"*
REYNOLDS'S NEWSPAPER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising, "The Blind Musician and Concertina Player, will appear Every Night during the Week, AND SEE THE LATEST IN ANIMATED PICTURES,"
THE PROPRIETORS OF THE CROWN PICTURES AND VARIETIES, ELSWICK,
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For the following advertisement in the miscellaneous sales column of the "Evening News" (Portsmouth), "Cheap, 35cwt. in good condition; owner going abroad,"
THE ADVERTISER ("71, Lawrence Road")
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

"REFORMATORY SCHOOL HORRORS."

MR. MASTERMAN'S REPORT.—OUR CHARGES SUSTAINED.—THE MAN LOVELOCK TO BE REMOVED.—THE GOVERNMENT PROMISES A DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE.

The most serious charge against this superintendent was that these boys, irrespective of age or their physical condition, for an offence committed by some of them, were made to stand up the whole of the night from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. by the side of their hammocks in which they ought to have slept, and every alternate 15 minutes throughout the night they were made to stand at attention for that quarter of an hour. In the morning these poor little wretches were bustled about their ordinary work. That one act alone was sufficient to warrant the instant and ignominious dismissal of that superintendent. (*Cheers.*)—MR. ATHERLEY-JONES, K.C., M.P., *in the* HOUSE OF COMMONS *on February* 23.

At last we have Mr. Masterman's Report upon the treatment of boys at the Heswall Nautical School. The reader will note that we say above that our charges—those charges which led to the official enquiry—have been "sustained." We are aware that Mr. Masterman—with that official way of looking at things which even the author of "The Condition of England" does not escape—has demured to this. He has certainly done his best in the way of whitewashing. But the facts were too many for him, and he has been compelled to admit the substance of our allegations—albeit most reluctantly. As to the specific charges we brought against the management of the Akbar School, we cannot do better than repeat them *literatim et verbatim* as they are to be found in our issue of October 22nd, 1910.

These charges were seven in number, and as follows:—

(1) That the boys are muffled and gagged, then publicly caned and birched by instruments that bring blood at every stroke.

(2) That boys are so caned for malingering when they are actually ill.

(3) That more than once in recent months death has followed upon this treatment.

(4) That for trivial offences boys are kept standing all night.

(5) That they have been frequently drenched with almost freezing water.

(6) That as a consequence of ill-treatment a large percentage of boys have been covered with sores.

(7) That the Chief Officer, J. Lovelock, brutally ill-treats the boys, and is persistently guilty of foul and obscene language.

Let us see what is said about these most serious allegations in the Report:—

(1) *As to the boys being muffled and gagged*, this is what Mr. Beuttler admitted to Mr. Masterman:—"I have known boys, when it was known they were going to get punished, yell as loudly as they could. In order to stop this a blanket was got and held to the boy's mouth. Perhaps I have known or thought there were people near to the building, and this was done so as not to have people hearing the cries." Upon this admission Mr. Masterman says:—"I think even a limited use of such a practice most objectionable." And so do we. As to the "blood at every stroke," Mr. Masterman says, "it was freely acknowledged that the full punishment with the birch of 18 strokes, or in most cases anything over eight strokes with the cane, would result in the cutting of the skin, and the necessity for subsequent antiseptic dressing."

(2) *As to the boys being caned for malingering when they are actually ill*, we directed special attention to the case of a boy named Brooks. "The Superintendent thought he was shamming and ordered him to be flogged. Mr. Adam intervened and saved the boy from a flogging. An hour or two afterwards the boy was dead." Reporting upon this case Dr. Paton, the Medical Officer for Wormwood Scrubbs Prison, who was present at the enquiry, and who made a very full report to Mr. Masterman, says that "It would appear that the boy was of weakly constitution, and he was in hospital under observation for minor complaints associated with weakness on two separate occasions last year. . . . Dr. Carlisle, the Medical Attendant at the School, informs us that at his examination of the boy on the 23rd of February (he died on the 24th February) he detected a slight catarrhal condition at the base of one lung. . . . This being so it would have been better if he had embodied the fact in his brief official report submitted at the time of the death." Further on Dr. Paton says:—"If Dr. Carlisle was aware at the time of his examination on the 23rd February that the boy had been reported for 'loafing,' and it would appear to be so from the evidence, it is to be regretted that he did not at once inform the Captain Superintendent of the precise state of the boy's health."

(3) *As to our statement that "more than once in recent months death has followed upon this treatment,"* besides the case of Brooks, Mr. Masterman refers to that of Brown, to which also we made specific reference. Our account is almost identical with that accepted by Mr. Masterman. We will quote from his own report:—"He (Beuttler) ordered two boys to take him (Brown) to the Boys' Washing Room and to clean him. He locked the three boys in the room. . . The length of time they were in the Washing Room, and the exact treatment Brown received there, is the subject of conflicting evidence. The Coroner was under the impression that Brown had been doused with buckets of water, and also with water conveyed by pieces of india-rubber tubing attached to one of the taps. He believed that the washing room was a very cold room; that Brown had been exposed there for some time, and that his death was accelerated by that exposure."

Mr. Masterman prefers the statement of the Superintendent, which is in direct contradiction to that of the Coroner, but he has to admit that when taken from the Washing Room Brown was "found to be seriously ill, put to bed, and the Doctor summoned. He arrived in about 20 minutes, and Brown died a few minutes after his arrival."

(5) *As to our charge that "for trivial offences boys are kept standing all night,"* Mr. Masterman says he could only find one case, the case to which we directed specific attention, and his description of this one case is identical with our own. He is compelled to condemn the Superintendent's action, but finds that "it is a point in favour of the Superintendent that it was never repeated."

(6) *As to our statement that "boys have been frequently drenched with almost freezing water,"* it may be remembered that we gave the specific case of a boy named Palmer. We said that 52 buckets of cold water were thrown over him. Referring to the same incident Mr. Masterman says:—"Some 15 buckets appear to have been thrown," and he allows himself to add, "If punishment either of standing boys all night, or throwing cold water over boys had been in habitual use I should certainly have recommended the dismissal of the present Superintendent." But the Superintendent, who apparently apologised to Mr. Masterman for his very improper conduct, seems to have persuaded him that it was not an habitual practice to treat boys in this way. The denial does not impress us when we recall the difference of opinion between this same gentleman and the Coroner about Brown being doused with buckets of water.

(6) *As to our statement that "as a consequence of ill-treatment a large percentage of boys have been covered with sores,"* Mr. Masterman says:—"An outbreak of boils occurred during December, which puzzled the doctors considerably. . . but I could not find any evidence to attribute it to ill-treatment. . . . The fact that this outbreak might have been due to low vitality and colds was recognised by the Doctor, and extra meals were provided. It is quite possible that the absence of a warm indoor playroom, combined with the newness of the building and the strict discipline, might have caused the multiplication of these things."

(7) *As to our statement that "the Chief Officer, Lovelock, brutally ill-treats the boys and is persistently guilty of foul and obscene language,"* Mr. Masterman has been unable to find evidence of brutal ill-treatment. He says:—"No evidence was offered to me by any of the witnesses of brutal ill-treatment of the boys by Mr. Lovelock, although a certain amount of evidence was offered that he habitually treated them rather roughly." Our readers will probably agree with us that the difference between brutally ill-treating boys and treating them "rather roughly" may not, in this connection, be very great. As to the foul language, Mr. Masterman says:—"Two officers declare that they resigned owing to his bad language." Mr. Masterman adds that they were unwilling witnesses, and "it seems difficult to understand" why they should not be believed. Nevertheless, he can only bring himself to admit that Mr. Lovelock's language was "pretty free."

We have now gone through our charges *seriatim* and Mr. Masterman's replies to them. We leave it to our readers to judge whether Mr. Masterman's description of the charges as "random and reckless" is borne out by Mr. Masterman's own report. It will be remembered that we described the method of procedure when the boys are flogged; Mr. Masterman is discreetly silent as to that. We said that the birch-rod used was not of the regulation size; Mr. Masterman admits it. We said that the backs of many of the boys were permanently scarred by the severity of the strokes; Mr. Masterman admits it, adding quite properly: "No form of corporal punishment should leave marks on the body of more than a transitory character." We said that the death of one of the boys was hushed up; Mr. Masterman admits that no report was made to the coroner, although the Government regulations direct that in cases of sudden death notice should be given to him. We said that the birch-rod used at Akbar School was not the usual birch, and that a few strokes from it produced blood; Mr. Masterman admits it, adding, "In cases where the skin had been bruised or cut antiseptic dressings were applied to prevent poisoning," which is also what we said. But does Mr. Masterman think it is the proper sort of treatment so to punish a boy that he has to be sent to hospital after the flogging to have his wounds dressed and so "prevent poisoning"?

And what about Mr. Beuttler? Well, Mr. Masterman does his best to let him off, but even the Under Secretary is not sure that he is the sort of man who can be safely left in charge of industrial school boys. "I doubt," he tells his chief, "if he is exactly the type of man who should occupy the responsible position of chief officer in an institution of this kind." There is no doubt in our mind that he is about as unsuitable a person as could be selected. Of course, Mr. Masterman, in his placid official way, does not admit this in set terms, but he does admit that Beuttler is not the "type of man suited for the position of chief officer in such a school, though I have no doubt he might do well in other occupations. I think a man of better stamp and more education might be procurable for the post. I should recommend to the committee that an attempt to find such a man should be made." After this official condemnation we take it that Beuttler's days at the Akbar Reformatory School are numbered.

So much for the Report and Mr. Masterman's findings. Can it be denied that it justifies our allegations of horrible cruelty? Mr. Masterman approached the enquiry with a rooted disbelief in the truth of our charges. An old pressman, he has a pressman's contempt of newspaper statements, and so, whilst admitting in almost every paragraph of his report that what we alleged has been proved to him to be true, he does not hesitate to charge us with "random and reckless" statements. But that is a small matter, important only as an indication of the official temperament, more especially when grafted on Fleet Street experiences. The Home Secretary did the right thing when, immediately upon the publication of our charges, he ordered an Enquiry. Mr. Masterman did what might perhaps have been expected of him when, with the help of a tame lawyer, he set himself to show that the boys at the Akbar Industrial School have not been ill-treated.

We commenced this article with a quotation from a speech in the House of Commons by a leading K.C., well on his way to the High Court Bench, and close it with a quotation from the *Nation*:—

> We agree with Mr. Masterman when, in answer to Mr. Jones's recital of the terrible facts recorded against the management of the school, he denied that his report was a white-washing one. No report could bear that name which records such offences as the "disciplinary" standing of the whole school from 10 o'clock on one night to 5 in the following morning, the "disciplinary" drenching of one boy by others with buckets of cold water, the "disciplinary" flogging of boys in excess of the regulations, the permanent scarring of twenty-seven boys through flogging (four scars were "of major degree"), and a variety of minor devices in punishment. If in face of these facts—which are not mere inventions of Mr. Adam and JOHN BULL, but have been sifted out by a careful inquiry—the Home Office concludes that the case for the dismissal of the superintendent responsible for them fails on the ground that he had greatly ameliorated the boys' condition, what kind of a hell on earth must this institution once have been?

THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

A GENEROUS COMMITTEE.

On June 3rd last the late Prince Francis of Teck appealed through the Press for £20,000 to free the Middlesex Hospital of its liabilities to its bankers, and on October 6th (seventeen weeks later) he announced that the amount had been sent in. The money was obtained solely through the influence of the Prince, chiefly by personal calls and letters, and the Hospital staff had but little to do with it. Nevertheless, £300 has been paid to the Secretary and his assistants for their extra labours during these weeks. Of this sum the Secretary received half, and the remainder averaged some £19 for each of his eight assistants. Now we should like to know on what grounds the Committee considered they were entitled to be so generous. From the seventeen weeks the appeal was running, five should be deducted for the time the Secretary was away on holiday, leaving twelve of actual work. When we consider that the donations averaged £50 each (there were three of £1,000 each) and were obtained by the Prince's personal efforts, it is seen that the work could not have been arduous enough to warrant an *additional* payment of no less than £12 10s. per week to an already well-paid official.

In a return of salaries dated 1906, we see he then received £550 per annum, and house, board, fuel and light, so that; considering the sore need of the hospital at the time of the appeal, a little self-sacrifice on account of any extra work entailed would not have been out of place. The donors to the fund will probably be surprised to know that so large a sum has been paid out of it for so little in return.

One other point. The collecting clerk, in addition to a salary, was paid 5 per cent. commission on subscriptions received. Will he draw this on the £20,000?

THE "FIVE-POUND NOTE FOR A POUND OF TEA" SCHEME.

ANOTHER WORD OF WARNING.

A Hammersmith shopkeeper tells us that on January 12th a lady called upon her, stating that she represented the firm of A. Cowen and Sons, tea merchants, of 3a, Tiverton Mansions, 140, Gray's Inn Road, who wanted someone well known in the locality to whom they could give £5, previous to their doing a door-to-door canvass. She said the firm had done a wonderful trade in districts where such sums had been distributed, and handed our correspondent a leaflet, which stated that "On Saturday, January 7th, we shall present to Mrs. Seddon, 1a, Finch Street, Deptford; Mrs. Eccleston, 9, Cowper Road, Brixton Hill; Mrs. Arnold, 7, Burrell Street, Blackfriars, the sum of £5, providing they have taken tea regularly every week in accordance with the conditions as stated on our circulars." She did not say whether the persons named had actually been paid, and, as a matter of fact, neither of them has received the amount, as they had all ceased to take the tea. This, of course, was—or should have been—known to Cowen and Sons.

Now, in this case—as in that of many other expositions of the same device, all over the country—the tea is priced at 7d. the quarter-pound packet (the weight is not stated on the wrapper), although it could be obtained from grocers at about 10d. to 1s. per lb. The wrapper bears no address, and in the extremely probable event of the handbill being lost or mislaid, it would be practically impossible to find the firm, should their canvasser fail to call for orders, and thus disqualify the purchaser from participation in the scheme. This, however, would be no great calamity, as there are over 5,000 customers on Cowen and Sons' books—so, even if the scheme is fully carried out, it may be a hundred years before those coming last on the list are entitled to payment!

We advise persons solicited by Messrs. Cowen and Sons' representatives, or by those of other concerns working the same scheme, to decline to part with the money in hand for the £5 note in the bush; to buy tea off their tradesmen, and to place the difference in the Savings Bank—they are pretty sure to get £5 quicker that way.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See page ii. of Cover.

THE ADMIRALTY AND THEIR WORKMEN.

HOW A GREAT DEPARTMENT IGNORES THE LAW, AND FAULTY DRAUGHTSMANSHIP COMPELS THE COURTS TO REFUSE JUSTICE.

On October 23rd, 1909, the Medical Inspector under the Factories Act visited the tinsmith shop in the dockyard at Portsmouth. This visit was for the purpose of investigating a case of lead poisoning. While there, he saw a man named George Horn, whom his experienced eye at once detected was suffering from that complaint. He called the attention of the foreman to the man's condition, and insisted that he should be reported to the Medical Superintendent of the dockyard. The Superintendent carefully examined him, and, as a result, found he had all the principal symptoms of chronic lead poisoning. He was treated by the dockyard surgeon for the complaint, but, as he showed no signs of recovery, was transferred to the Royal Naval Hospital at Haslar and was there treated by the doctors for one month. On December 12th he died.

The Widow's Claim.

On December 28th, acting on behalf of the widow and nine children, Mr. A. L. Kent, solicitor, of Portsmouth, wrote to the Treasury demanding compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and on December 30th he received a communication from the Treasury saying that his letter had been handed to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. Mr. Kent afterwards wrote several letters to the Admiralty, but it was not until February 7th that he received a letter from them, in which they informed him that "the Medical Officer of the Department, having given the case most careful consideration, is of opinion that Horn's death was due to heart disease of long standing, and was not attributed to the Service. My Lords regret, therefore, that the widow's claim for compensation cannot be allowed." After a further correspondence Mr. Kent received another letter, dated March 3rd, 1910, in which My Lords informed him that "the decision was based upon the report of the medical officers that neither during Horn's illness in Haslar Hospital, nor by post-mortem examination, were any symptoms of lead poisoning discovered, while the post-mortem examination revealed that the deceased had heart disease of long standing."

The Admiralty's Repudiation.

From these letters it will be seen that the Admiralty denied in a very deliberate manner that the man died from lead poisoning. There were no symptoms of lead poisoning, they said, and so there could be no claim for compensation.

Mr. Kent, however, had reason to believe that notwithstanding the experts quoted by the Admiralty, Horne did die from lead poisoning. Consequently he filed an application for Arbitration at the Portsmouth County Court. The Treasury Solicitor appeared on the scene and informed Mr. Kent that he was instructed to apply for the application to be dismissed with costs. The date originally fixed for the hearing was May 15th, and a day or two before that date the Treasury solicitor approached Mr. Kent with a view of getting the case adjourned, the reason given being that they were holding an enquiry into the circumstances attending Horn's death. It will be noted that this was five months after the man's death, and several weeks after the Admiralty authorities had satisfied themselves that there was no doubt in the case.

Their Climb Down.

The hearing was adjourned until June 9th, and on June 4th Mr. Kent received a letter from the Treasury Solicitor, in which he stated that, after full consideration of the case, his clients admitted their liability, but said nothing about costs. After various telegraphic communications, Mr. Kent received on June 8th, the day before the hearing, a telegram in which it was stated that the Treasury would now pay "reasonable" costs.

Another Move.

The Admiralty had another string to their bow, and still hoped to avoid paying this poor woman the money that was her due. Mr. Kent insisted that he was entitled to an award under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and on June 9th, he applied to his Honour Judge Gye, who made the award. The Admiralty's contention was that as the deceased had accepted a certain scheme of compensation which was in force in Government establishments he was absolutely bound by that scheme, certain words in which constituted the Treasury sole judges of fact as to whether or no he or his dependents were entitled to any compensation at all. But the County Court judge overruled this contention. The Admiralty thereupon appealed, and the appeal was recently heard before the Master of the Rolls, and Lord Justices Fletcher Moulton and Farwell, the result being that the decision of the County Court judge was set aside.

What It Means.

This judgment must have a very far-reaching effect, for it simply means that in all future cases the Treasury is to be sole judge of fact as to whether one of its employees did or did not die from the result of an accident, or from the effects of an industrial disease, and that the Treasury may arrive at any decision, *ex parte*, without calling any evidence of any description before them. If every Government department could always be relied upon to do absolute justice this would be, perhaps, satisfactory enough, but all the facts in the case under discussion go to show that they never will admit liability unless they are absolutely forced to. Nor does the decision of the Court of Appeal stop here, for any large employers of labour can draw up schemes of compensation, and it will be possible for them, under those schemes, to appoint themselves sole arbiters. It is quite true that theoretically the men are not compelled to accept the scheme, but practically they have no option, for, rightly or wrongly, they imagine that if they do not, they will become marked men. That this is the fear is evidenced by the fact that when it was proposed to make a collection in the Dockyard for the purpose of fighting the case, the men were afraid of their names appearing on the list of subscriptions.

It is inconceivable that when the contracting-out clause was inserted in the Act the Legislature ever contemplated for a single moment the possibility of such a state of things arising. It has been suggested by the Treasury Counsel that practically the only method of enforcing a man's right under the scheme is by Petition of Right, and it is hard to believe that the Legislature, in framing what is really a beneficent Act, ever intended that the cheap and expeditious method of procedure provided by it should be displaced by such cumbrous and expensive machinery, which would practically preclude the dependents of any working man from enforcing their rights.

UP-TO-DATE "ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA"

SOME SUGGESTE D REVISIONS FOR THE NEXT EDITION.

We have had something to say about the relations of the Hooper and Jackson Syndicate, now known as the Encyclopædia Britannica, Ltd., with the Syndics of the University of Cambridge. As to the Encyclopædia itself, we have accepted the general verdict that it is a long way ahead of its predecessors, but, apparently, the claim of the Syndics of the University that it is as well up-to-date as any encyclopædia possibly can be, ought not to be accepted. For example, a Scotch contemporary directs attention to the article on Cupar, which bears internal evidence of age, and must have been written by a person who was anything but well informed of the state of things at Cupar, even as they were when he wrote about it. Thus Cupar is stated to be in the middle of the Howe or hollow of Fife, which is inaccurate. It is stated to have a racecourse, which is not accurate. It has had no racecourse for at least 40 years, if it ever had one. Then Cupar Cross, if we are to believe the article, has been rebuilt on the Owl or Tarnit Hill, some miles out of Cupar. In fact, the Mercat Cross was removed from Hill Tarbit in 1897, and placed at the Cross of the Town in the same year. Then we are told that the Bell-Barter School is situated on the hill to the east of the town, occupying the site of a twelfth-century castle which was one of the strongholds of the Macduffs, Thanes of Fife. The school is not on a hill to the east of the town, but is situated in the west of Cupar on a level with the main street. According to the article, there are breweries, spinning mills, and tanneries at Cupar. In fact, no spinning has been done in Cupar for at least ten years, and there is only one tannery. In the neighbouring burgh of Ladybank there is stated to be a colliery, but no such colliery is visible to the ordinary eye.

VICAR AND TENANT.

A FASTIDIOUS LANDLORD.

A Parish Councillor in Bucks puts the following facts before us. The vicar to whom he refers is also Lord of the Manor:—

A family has occupied one cottage for forty-nine years. Every member of the family has been a member of the parish church. The father was a bellringer for forty years. He and his wife died in the cottage, which thereafter remained in the occupation of two of his daughters, who conducted a sweet-shop and did laundry work to eke out a living. One of the sisters died about two months ago. The remaining one, born there, is 36 years of age. She has suddenly received notice to quit. No accusation is made—as a matter of fact the whole family would appear to have escaped the notice of the ever-present village scandal-mongers—no reason is given to the woman for the harsh action, beyond what the district visitor (who was astounded at the Vicar's action) could glean from him at a mothers' meeting—which, in so many words, was that he did not approve of a woman (36 years of age, mind) living alone in one of his cottages! Not an isolated cottage, but one of a lengthy row. Week by week for forty-nine years the rent has been regularly paid. The woman—mostly dependent on her trade in sweets—cannot find another shop or cottage which does not belong to the vicar, with the exception of one little one lying away from all ordinary traffic, where the stock of sweets would be useless. To do more washing than she does at present is beyond her strength, even if this outlying cottage were suitable, which it is not. She would pay more rent rather than leave. The vicar only compresses his lips and glares. Beyond the fatuous reason(?) given to the district visitor, no word can be extracted from him. To what end is he condemning this woman and—his motive?

THE CORNISH FISHERMEN—CAN IT BE?

A SWEEPING ACCUSATION.

A correspondent writes:—

I spent a good deal of time in Cornwall, and often wondered at their ways. The Cornish fisherman will not go out on Saturday evening, as he would have to land and dispose of his catch on Sunday. He will also not go out on Sunday evening, as that would break the Sabbath. In fact, his week commences at 6 o'clock on Monday evening and finishes early on the Saturday following, as soon as the catch is out of the way; and then they wonder that they are poor.

The Cornish people are most intensely religious—to look at—and a most sober people. That is why you will hardly find a public-house in the county that hasn't a back entrance, and the back entrance is more used than the front. In fact, a man can be guilty of practically any crime in the calendar and retain his respectability; but if he takes one glass of intoxicant, he is doomed to eternal damnation and disgrace.

Cornwall is a lovely county and a splendid place to spend a holiday in, but my advice to anyone who goes there is to be content with the county and a passing acquaintance with its people. If you get to know them very personally, you will never go there again.

We find it difficult to swallow this wholesale condemnation.

LABOUR EXCHANGES AND EMPLOYERS.

We have received the following letter, which seems to us to merit attention:—

A few days ago I was advertising in a daily paper for electrical work, piece or job. I had a reply from a Jew in Shoreditch, who wrote asking me to meet him on the following morning. I went, and failed to see him. However, I left my name and address with his clerk. On the following Friday evening I received the enclosed wire from the Shoreditch Exchange. I was annoyed and surprised, as I have never registered myself at any exchange, as I only take on contract work. I went to the Exchange to investigate, and was informed that the Jew (who wrote to me) had come to them, gave my name and address, and asked them to send me a wire. *After this* I can only think the Labour Exchanges exist for the purpose of saving employers the cost of stamps and telegrams. In conclusion, I think the benevolence of the Shoreditch Labour Exchange should be more widely known, as some new opening will have to be found for the year's Budget surplus. Why not free telegrams?

The telegram runs as below:—

Please call Labour Exchange at 117, High Street, Shoreditch, to-morrow, Saturday morning, at 8 o'clock sharp, *re* vacancy for wireman.

THE GENTLE ART OF FEE-SNATCHING.

WOULD-BE BORROWERS, 'WARE SWYERS AND "THE COMMERCIAL ADVANCE COMPANY"!

The other day, the magistrate at Marlborough Street had before him a case in which Jack Simans, manager to "A. Swyers," moneylender, of 119, New Bond Street, charged a man named Henry with demanding money by menace—the facts being that Henry accused Simans of getting by false pretences from his wife the sum of 10s., which he demanded back, at the same time producing an old, broken, unloaded revolver. In the end the magistrate bound Henry over in the sum of £2.

That Henry's allegation was probably true is borne out in a statement which has been made to us by an enquiry agent recently employed by Swyers—who, by registering the New Bond Street business in the name of his wife, is able to trade at Manchester, Birmingham and elsewhere in the provinces as "The Commercial Advance Company." Our informant tells us he was instructed that, when conducting enquiries, he was to pose as coming from either of these firms, according to where application had been made for an advance. His salary was fixed at 35s. a week "and commission," but—for reasons which will be shown—no commission ever accrued due to him.

Upon explaining that he was a novice at the business, it was impressed upon him that wherever he called he must ask for "expenses"—these expenses being based upon a scale. In the case of applications for small loan—say, of £10—9s. 5d. or 9s. 7d. was demanded for journeys from Bond Street to such places as Bayswater and Regent's Park. He was told to ask for such odd amounts as they looked "so *bona-fide*." In a Brighton case, where the applicant wanted £150, £11 was taken in this way.

Our informant's first week's bag in the shape of expenses was £8 2s. 6d. He, seeing the nature of the business, stopped but another week, and during the fortnight enquired into 42 cases. Upon his return to the office, he was not asked for the elaborate form containing 26 questions which the would-be borrower was supposed to fill up, but the sole solicitude was as to the amount of fees which had been extorted. In the 42 cases referred to—in all of which fees were obtained—the typist was instructed by the manager to "tell off," as he styled it, the applicant—the phrase for sending a stereotyped form of letter stating that the loan could not be granted unless a guarantor were furnished. In these cases, the matter ended at this point, but if a guarantor were offered, the fee game, for investigating *his* standing, would commence afresh.

Frequently, disappointed would-be borrowers from Swyers were written to by one of the provincial Commercial Advance offices, to the effect that they understood that a loan was required, and one of the enquiry men would then call.

The following is an example of many complaints received:—

A reader responded to an advertisement of the Bristol branch of the Commercial Advance Company, asking for a loan for the *express purpose* of paying off heavy expenses incurred for a surgical operation. He did not owe a single shilling except for the operation. He received a reply stating that if he sent 8s. 6d., the company's representative would call upon him with the money, ready to advance if enquiries were satisfactory. He replied, asking the rate of interest, and was informed that on £20 it would be £2 (as per advertisement), and again assuring him that if he sent the 8s. 6d. business would be completed to his satisfaction. The 8s. 6d. was forwarded, and the representative called on a Thursday. He was satisfied that the proposed borrower was in good constant employment, and was also shown the doctor's bill, and frankly invited to make what investigation he liked of the statement that no other money was owed. On a solemn promise that the £20 would be received on Saturday, the enquiry agent obtained for expenses a further 15s. 6d., making a total of 24s. 6d. The would-be borrower waited till Tuesday, and then wrote to know the company's intentions—to receive the reply that after investigating the case they found that they could not lend the money! His further letter, again inviting them to make what enquiries they liked and defying them to prove that any debt was owed except to the doctor, elicited a threatening answer, stating that they had handed the communication to their *solicitor*, who *intended to write to his employers!*

IS CANADA WORTH KEEPING?—III.

WOMEN AND MEDICAL ATTENDANCE.—THE CANADIAN WINTER.—THE C.P.R. AND ITS FARMS.—THE BARNARDO BOYS.

Of the many drawbacks to life in Canada as it affects the pioneer, one—and not the least important—is seldom or never heard of in this country. Just now the Canadian Government is spending much money, and enlisting many agencies, in the endeavour to induce young Englishwomen to emigrate to Canada. That is a natural and proper thing to do. An immense number of young men are going to Canada, and from every point of view it is desirable that the proportion of young women following them should be as high as prudence permits. But these young women should know what it is they have to face. Probably 99 out of every 100 of them expect to marry before they have been in Canada long, and many of them will go straight to the north-west. In course of time children will come along, and here it is that many mothers will find themselves at grave disadvantage. Canada is a young country, and those who go out to it must expect to rough it more or less; but there seems to be unnecessarily great difficulty in getting proper medical attendance for women at a time when they need it the most. We have before us a letter written by a young man to his brother in this country, and not intended for publication. The writer was at Field. He says:—

> We have had another increase in our family. Another son. He is doing as well as can be expected in the circumstances. My wife certainly had a rough time, and after four women had disappointed us, I was obliged to stay at home and nurse her myself. What with one thing and another, including the doctor's fee of 25 dollars, the expenses of the confinement took about 80 dollars, and so knocked a little of the gilt off the gingerbread. Does it not appear to you strange that after the various efforts made by distributing literature, and the land and railway companies have sent round their cinematograph shows with the object of getting people to come out, Canada can do no better for the Canadian mothers than to—well, torture them, for, after all, that is what child-bearing means over here?

Now, if this is what happens in the smaller towns, what must be the position in the country districts? As a matter of fact, it is deplorable. A girl goes out to marry her sweetheart who has got some land in the north-west. She is married, and in course of time is about to become a mother. But she is in a log hut, it may be miles away from her nearest neighbours, the only people in the house being, probably, her husband, and a half-breed. The husband rides for the doctor, and he has to ride many miles. The wife is left alone. The doctor is not always available, and so it comes about that often she is left to the unskilled attention of her husband, frequently with deplorable consequences to her health. It has been suggested to the Government of Canada—and it may be hoped they will see their way to act upon the suggestion—that a sort of itinerant Association of Nurses should be formed, with the object of attending maternity cases. It ought not to be difficult in these days, when the telephone and telegraph are being used more and more in country districts, to form an Association that would make it possible, without undue cost, to insure that every settler's wife may rely upon proper attendance in the time of her trouble. In the meantime, young girls going out to Canada will do well to remember that there are other things they have to reckon with besides unremitting work, an inclement climate, and absence of amusement.

The Canadian Winter.

We are sometimes told that, notwithstanding the cold, Canada in winter is very enjoyable. Well, we take the following from the *Winnipeg Free Press* of February 8th:

> Up in Swift Current district horses and cattle are dying from want of food. The entire province is living from hand to mouth as regards fuel, and one more severe storm will put the entire province right up against fuel. That is the information handed out by the Department of Agriculture to-day, and apparently things have reached almost a desperate stage in the outlying points of the province.

The *Manitoba Free Press* of February 9th describes how Chas. Woodall, an army veteran, who came to Canada with Lord Wolseley's first expedition, and is now about 70 years of age, had both his feet frozen a fortnight earlier.

Here are two other incidents, from the *Winnipeg Telegram*:—

> W. S. Romaine, a Colorado man, who took up a homestead last June, took three horses to a ranch 40 miles away. He started on a homeward journey afoot, and after going 10 miles was joined at a ranch by a young Englishman named Glen Hoffman, who wished to go to his brother's place. Romaine was found frozen to death clinging to a fence. There is no trace of Hoffman.
>
> Chas. Stammers, another young Englishman, started to walk a distance of 8 miles on the night of January 17th, from Walter Rothwell's homestead to his own place, a snowstorm blew and nothing has been heard of him since.

The C.P.R. and its Farms.

Another correspondent writes:—

> Tell your friends to steer clear of the C.P.R. ready-made farms. This is how they work. C.P.R. owns the land—got it free—and builds a shack and stable on it. It ought to be worth, with the fence, breaking and buildings, 25 dollars per acre—not a cent more. They sell it on 10-year plan—for 50 dollars in most cases, sometimes more, sometimes less. The farmer gets from 60 to 80 acres, including rough land and the tillable stuff. You know that 80 acres will starve a Chinaman in Alberta, and what can come of a deluded Englishman on the same track? It will be a survival of the fittest, and that will be the C.P.R. They will have the buildings when the other man goes broke, and they will have his payments. The land agent forgets to say that you pay 6 per cent. on all deferred payments, that is about $2.75 per acre the second year, which is pretty steep, besides having to meet the regular payment. If the Englishman survives this he is a marvel; the old C.P.R. has him on every turn. They offer him the land on any old way of payment he likes, but they don't tell him about that interest account, which is the only thing which is allowed to work on Sundays in Canada, excepting, of course, the C.P.R. and friends.

How Barnardo Boys are Treated.

As we recently mentioned, some of the Barnardo boys seem to have a rough time of it on the Canadian farms. We printed a report of a case at Tilbury, Ontario, where two prominent farmers were charged with ill-treating two Barnardo boys, Arthur Clarkson and Fred Lang. In the case of the first it was shown by the Crown that the young lad Clarkson was whipped by the farmer, David Flaherty, when he should have been in bed. His feet had been frost-bitten and had broken out into running sores. He also had a high temperature and was a sick boy. Because he did not get up at half-past four o'clock in the morning, Flaherty attacked the boy with a horse-whip. When Inspector Kidner arrived later in the day, he found the boy's back covered with blue and black marks, and his feet and hands were in a bad condition. There was a hole in one of his feet as big round as a 25-cent piece. When he was found he was wearing a pair of No. 9 shoes and these were the only ones he could get on his feet. Almost as bad as Akbar!

Our Special Commissioners.

We have now appointed two highly qualified Special Commissioners to visit all parts of the Dominion and to obtain not only information as to the state of things there, but also photographs giving an exact representation of the conditions under which the immigrants live.

We hope to receive a first report in the course of a few weeks.

"MRS. BULL."

Sold—and Bought—Everywhere, ONE PENNY.

BY APPOINTMENT TO H.M. THE KING.

OXO

is a magnificent food for growing children

—so writes an enthusiastic mother from West Norwood—and she is right. She is only one of forty-thousand people—doctors, nurses and public, who wrote us in praise of OXO during 1910.

OXO is so rich in **NITROGEN** it has the remarkable quality of enabling the system to extract infinitely greater nourishment from other foods. Such foods as bread and butter, milk, biscuits, toast, porridge, potatoes, rice, arrowroot, etc., tax the digestion when taken alone, but when OXO is taken with them, or added to them, they digest so easily and completely that their nourishing value is enormously increased.

OXO and HOT MILK

A spoonful of OXO to a tumbler of hot milk is the **IDEAL** food for a growing child. Try it for a month—twice a day—and notice the increase in weight and height—the greater resistance to cold and fatigue—and the great improvement in health.

OXO, 4, LLOYD'S AVENUE, LONDON, E.C.

THE BRISTOL TRAMWAYS COMPANY.

We recently addressed some pointed questions to Sir George White, chairman of this company, which have not yet been answered.

Nor have we been informed whether the following extraordinary circular, which we brought to his notice about a year ago, was really issued by his authority, or is a mere hoax :—

THE BRISTOL TRAMWAYS AND CARRIAGE CO., LTD.

NOTICE.

FUNERALS OF EMPLOYEES AND THEIR RELATIVES.

It has come to my notice that sometimes our own employees, when unfortunately there is a death in their family, give the order to undertakers who have set up in opposition to the company. Certain undertakers, instead of ordering the company's horses, cars, and carriages, have purchased their own and discontinued using the company's. There are undertakers everywhere in Bristol and suburbs who always employ the Tramways and Carriage Company's horses, cars, and carriages.

The company's equipments are all of a superior class. The undertakers who support the company are most moderate in their charges.

The following is a list of undertakers who have from time to time set up against the company, and I trust, that as deaths do unfortunately overtake all families sooner or later, when bereavement does take place our employees *will not give* their orders for the funeral to any one of the following undertakers:—

(1) E. Colston, opposite "Black Swan," Eastville.
(2) Osborne and Cotton, top of Redfield, St. George, and at Barton Hill.
(3) Wood and Company, Perry Road and Hotwells.
(4) Osborne, Castle Ditch.
(5) Smale, Wills Road, Totterdown.
(6) Crofts, Easton Road.

CHAS. CHALLENGER, *Manager.*

Tramway Centre, *October 23rd*, 1909.

The "General Regulations for the Employees of the Bristol Tramways Co., Ltd.," state that: "Drivers and conductors should work together in all matters of interest to the company. They should be attentive to duty, carefully looking out for persons at the stations, and if they notice anyone standing looking at the car, undecided whether or not to ride, make a motion with their hand to attract their attention, calling out at the same time, 'Ride, ma'am?' or 'Sir?' which, in many cases, would induce them to ride, and thereby increase the business of the company."

Each devoted conductor and driver therefore may be imagined as having one eye upon possible live passengers, and the other eye for ever running over the list of their relatives as prospective occupants of the company's funeral cars. They must also find time to "inform the traffic manager of any act of neglect or disobedience of orders that may come to their knowledge," and "must be civil, courteous and obliging," doubtless for the same reason as operates in the case of the foremen and inspectors, who "must avoid all jealous or unfriendly feeling as being detrimental to the company's interest."

It is interesting to observe that "every employee of the company is required to become a member of the Provident Society of the company's employees"—(and to subscribe to same)—"but shall cease to be a member on quitting the company's service." "The whole of the company's servants are engaged by the day. Wages will only be paid for such days or parts of days as the servant may actually be at work, it not being the intention of the company to absolutely ensure constant employment to any servant." "They must not engage in any other occupation or business, and must devote their whole time and attention to the company's service and business."

Exactly *how* these exemplary young men are to "devote their whole time" to a service which does not "ensure constant employment" is a little hard to understand. But "theirs not to reason why, theirs but to do and die"—and get decently buried in the company's well equipped funeral cars.

"UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT."

LOTINGA'S WEEKLY.

"LOTINGA'S WEEKLY" is now a stable companion of "JOHN BULL," and is rapidly getting back to its old form.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CXXXI.

A BENEVOLENT POLICEMAN BRINGS A SAD CASE TO OUR NOTICE.

A police constable of the Wigan force has brought to our notice the following pitiful case :—

Up to my marriage ten years ago I was a school teacher, and when leaving was told that if at any time I wished to go back, they would be pleased to have me.

A few years ago I had a severe illness, which left me with paralysis of the legs. I felt my affliction very keenly, but consoled myself with the knowledge that I had a good husband. Twelve months ago, however, his knee swelled to a great size and became so painful that he was unable to attend his work. He was medically treated, but the knee did not make much improvement. The doctor says it is diseased, and he can only get about on crutches.

In order to live, we have converted into money everything but a few necessary articles of furniture—thinking every week he would be able to resume work. Alas, now that my husband is disabled, I find it impossible to get a teaching appointment, and we have had to apply to the Guardians, who allow us 8s. per week. When the rent is paid and coals, light and soap are bought, there is very little left for food. We have three fine healthy children—boys 9 and 3, and a girl 7—whose chief fault is that they always seem to be hungry. It is very distressing to us to hear them crying for food, when we have none. There are times when we feel desperate.

I have sat hour after hour mending our clothes, trying to keep up a respectable appearance, but in spite of all my efforts they are so threadbare that they refuse any longer to be held together by stitches.

I should be very grateful if I could get some kind of home employment to do, such as envelope addressing or circulars. We do not wish to go into the workhouse, as that would mean separation for us all, and our children would grow up almost as strangers to us and to each other.

It seems very hard for us to feel so well in health, and yet neither of us able to get out to earn a living.

We shall be happy to forward any money or offers of help.

We have received, and duly remitted, the following to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named :—

CXXI.—"Baby Daughters of J. and H. M. S.," 15s.

CXXVII.—"Anonymous," 5s.; Miss F. H., 3s.; F. S. W., 3s.; W. M., 2s. 6d.

CXXVIII.—H. L. R., 1s.; S. T. W., 5s.; "Hugo," 1s.

CXXIX.—A. A. T., 5s. 6d.; A. B. C., 20s.; D. D. W., 10s.; "Billy," 2s. 6d.; "Nil Desperandum," 1s.; T. P., 1s.; "Jim," 2s; C. T., 5s; Mrs. C. L. W. N., 2s.; J. W. A., 2s. 6d.; S. V., 2s.; E. A. D., 2s. 6d.; K. and G., 1s.; "Sympathiser," 2s. 6d.; J. R. M., 2s. 6d.; "Two Little Girls," 1s.; E. K., 4s. 10d.; W. Bros., 2s. 6d.; L. C., 5s.; C. M., 3s.; F. S., 2s. 6d.; "Claude," 3s.; Cecil R., 2s. 6d.; "Kilt and Blaidie," 2s. 6d.; "Sympathiser," 3s.; "A Part Return," 5s.; "Harrow," 3s.; "Hospital Nurse," 1s.; "Working Man," 1s.; "Grateful Parents," 2s.; "Tonbridge," 1s.; "Slip End," 2s. 6d.; "Sympathy," 1s.; "Arthur S.," 1s. 6d.; W. G. S., 5s.; "North Shields," 2s. 6d.; "Forest Hill," 2s.; W. H. B., 2s.; "Sympathiser," 1s.; S., 1s.; E. and A. D., 1s.; "Sympathy," 10s.; "Pongo," 2s. 6d.; "A Little Willingly," 2s.; "Billy Whip," 1s.; "Yorkshireman," 2s. 6d.; "Topsy," 1s.; A. W. H. 2s. 6d.; P. M., 1s.; "Brum," 5s.; "Mother of 3," 1s.; "Mastic," 1s.; N. U., 1s.; "Help One Another," 10s.; "One in Sympathy," 2s. 6d.; "Little Jack," 2s. 6d.; H. G., 10s.; J. M. P., 3s.; M. M., 5s.; S. C. W., 5s.; E. A. P., 2s. 6d.; "Olive," 2s. 6d.; "Maywal," £3; "Clytie," 2s. 6d.; "Gippeswick," 1s.; "Engine Driver," 1s.; A. J. J., 1s.; E. H., 2s. 6d.; "Unknowingly," 10s.; E. S., 10s.; "British Waiter," 2s.; C. S. B., 2s.; A. A., 5s.; S. E. B., 2s. 6d.; J. M., 1s.; "An Old Maid," 2s.; S. T. W., 5s.; R. C., 1s.; "Poor Widow," 1s.; E. G., 2s.; J. M. W., 1s.; E. and A., 1s.; "Jessie," 5s.; A. R. C. O., 2s.; H. M. C., 1s. 6d.; "A Jewess," 1s. 6d.; C. J. A., 2s.; D. A. R., 2s. 6d.; B. A., 2s.; E. J. C., 2s.; A. G. R., 1s.; J. J. R., 2s.; H. J. F. C., 5s.; "A Poor Man," 1s. 7d.; P. O. F., 2s 6d.; R. T. L., 2s. 6d.; "Esam," 1s.; "Every Little Helps," 2s.; "Calabush," 20s.; "Knoly," 2s. 6d.; "Would If I Could," 1s.; "Taxi," 1s.; "Norah," 2s.; "Anonymous," £5; "Rebecca," 1s.; "Melitta," 1s.; A. L. H., 2s.; "Anon," 2s.; H. B., 1s.; "Sympathy," 2s. 6d.; "Beer," 5s.; T. G. J., 5s.; "Agnes," £1; G. M., 6d.; M. M., 6d.; E. M., 6d.; Ed. M., 3d.; C. M., 3d.; A. B., 5s.; "One Who Sympathises," 5s.; U. T. O., 5s.; "Rugbeia's," 6d.; Butt Rd., 1s.; J. E. H., 2s. 6d.; Mrs. A. B. T., 2s. 6d.; "Kaihu," 1s. 7d.; Mrs. M. S., 10s.; M. J. J., 2s.; F. W., 2s.; "Brigston," 10s.; E. R., 2s.; "A Mother," 5s.; "English," 2s.; T., 5s.; E. H. A. and R. J. G., 2s. 6d.; "Anthony," 1s. 6d.; W. B. P., 1s.; B. W. B. P., 1s.; G. D. B. P., 1s.; R. B. G., 2s.; M. C., 2s. 6d.; G. H., 5s.; Mrs. M., 1s.; R. P., 1s.; "Maesteg, Glam.," 8s.; "Mill Lass," 1s.

CXXX.—J. J. J., 2s. 6d.; C. R. B., £2 2s.; "Honest Freemason," 5s.

A NEW ADVENTURE OF

CAPTAIN KETTLE

Cutcliffe Hyne's Latest and Best Story;
And a New Story by

CONAN DOYLE

One of the most brilliant pieces of fiction he has ever written—appear in the MARCH NUMBER of

PEARSON'S MAGAZINE

Further stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Mr. Cutcliffe Hyne will appear in early issues of "PEARSON'S MAGAZINE." The present number contains NINE COMPLETE STORIES, and full details of a unique competition in which £260 is offered in prizes.

THE BIGGEST, BRIGHTEST, AND BEST MAGAZINE.

ON SALE EVERYWHERE - - - 6d.

THE STRANGE EXPERIENCE OF A CABINET MINISTER.

By "Retlaw."

The President of the Board of Trade sat in a very easy chair in a very luxurious study. It wanted a few minutes to midnight, but the President felt no inclination for bed. He had been vastly irritated in the House of Commons that evening. Certain impertinent private members, who scorned the party whips and were for ever clamouring for the introduction of business methods into the business of government, had persisted in asking him perplexing questions. One had had the audacity to inquire who constituted the Board of Trade. He, the President, had escaped for the time being by asking for notice of that question. Another had desired to be informed when the Board had last met. The President had been forced to reply that it would not be in the public interest to satisfy the hon. member's overweening curiosity at that juncture. Whereupon a third catechist had sprung to his feet and asked whether the Board ever had met, and, if so, where. The President, driven into a corner, had affected not to hear the question, and had assumed an indifferent ease which his flushed cheeks had belied.

And now, even in the silent seclusion of his study, those baffling questions still haunted him. A choice cigar had failed to soothe his ruffled nerves. A moderate peg of ten-year-old Highland whisky had brought him no surcease of sorrow. The latest novel, banned by the circulating libraries, had calmed him not at all. He was annoyed—very much annoyed; and the longer he brooded over the cause of his annoyance the greater his annoyance became.

He had smoked his cigar down to the last inch, reached that point in his story where the unconventional heroine runs away with the non-moral hero, and drained the last drop of his glass of whisky, when the solemn chimes of Big Ben announced the hour of midnight. At the same moment the outermost of the double doors of his study was heard to open. There was no mistaking the sound, for the pneumatic spring whose duty is was to keep that outer door fast shut had a voice of its own. At every effort it cried aloud for oil.

It does not take one long to think disturbing, creepy thoughts when the clocks are striking twelve. Between the first creak that announced the opening of the outer door and the silent opening of the inner one, the thoughts of the President of the Board of Trade sped through his brain at lightning speed. He knew Mrs. President was in bed, and doubted not that she was asleep. Had he not heard her familiar snore when stepping lightly past her bedroom on the way down from his dressing-room half-an-hour since? That all the servants had retired he felt sure, and that half-an-hour or more ago.

Who, then, could his visitor be at this dead and hollow hour of the night?

All this, and a great deal more, flashed through the brain of the President of the Board of Trade in the momentary interval between the first protesting creak of the outer, and the noiseless opening of the inner, door of his study.

Presidents of the Board of Trade are not expected to be as brave as Home Secretaries. Nevertheless, the President with whom this story is concerned was not lacking in courage. He sprang to his feet, and grasped the whisky decanter firmly in his right hand, prepared to sacrifice the contents if need be, albeit mellow and ten years old (warranted).

But when the first of his midnight visitors entered the room and paced gravely towards him, the President replaced the whisky decanter on the table with a shaking hand and sank back into his very comfortable armchair with a gasp.

In they stalked, one after another, these midnight visitors, until the study was well-nigh packed. And strange figures they were. Half of them wore priestly vestments, jewel-encrusted mitres on head, pastoral crooks of gold in hand. The other half were wigged and robed, silk-stockinged and knee-breeched. Ascetic and pious were the faces of the first; humorous, convivial, and Hibernian the faces of the be-wigged. The President's face may be imagined.

The whole company, having bowed to the President, by some miraculous means found seats. They were certainly far more at ease than the President, for they chatted amongst themselves in quiet and decorous tones, whilst the President, huddled up in his very comfortable armchair, sat gaping with dropped jaw and bulging eyes.

"Come, Misther Prisidint," presently said one of the be-wigged, "th' Board is awaitin' yer hanner's pleasure. Will yez be koind enough tu take the chair, for ut's late ut is, begob, and a divil av a disthance have we come, and, by Saint Pathrick, the same disthance have we tu go back befure dawn."

"The President is already in the chair—very much in the chair, I might say," observed one of the priestly party. "I take it that the meeting is now open. Wherefore it is incumbent upon us to proceed to business. It is my privilege to raise the question of the Australian beef-worm."

"Stidy, yer holy rivirence," cried another of the be-wigged party, rising to his feet and glaring truculently at the last speaker. "Ut's a quare thing tu me if ye're qualified tu spake on thot subject. Ye're an Ar-rchbishop, I grant yez—whether Cranmer or Reginald Pole I know not; but if ye wor the Pope av Rome hisself—good luck to um!—uts meself that'd denoy yer roight tu spake concarnin' the beef-wor-rm."

"I willingly admit that I know nothing about the matter," replied the Archbishop humbly, "but I venture to say that you are in no better case. How should *you*, gentlemen, one-time Speakers of the Irish House of Commons—an office abolished more than a hundred years ago—how should you know, any more than we of the Episcopal bench, the habits and manners of the Australian beef-worm?"

"Ut's out av ordher ye are entoirely!" cried several of the be-wigged party. "Let the Presidint spake."

The President of the Board of Trade, finding no harm was intended him, had by this time recovered a measure of confidence.

"My lords and gentlemen," he said, rising and bowing profoundly, "for heaven's sake tell me who and what you are and why you are here."

"Surely, Mr. President," replied one of the Archbishops, "surely you recognize the members of your Board! Hearing of your difficulties in the House of Commons, we have stepped down from the Elysian Fields to give you a leg-up. Behold in us members of the Board of Trade—the Archbishops of Canterbury and the Speakers of the Irish House of Commons, from the first downwards."

"Spakin' av Chinese por-rk," interposed one of the Irish Speakers, "I have here, Misther Prisidint, a specimen av the Australian beef-wor-rm. I'll come an' show ut tu yer hanner."

The quaint phantasm of an obsolete office, holding an object between his thumb and forefinger, advanced towards the President, who, however, unable to stand the strain any longer, dropped back into his very comfortable armchair and fainted.

* * * * * *

It was remarked that the President of the Board of Trade looked uncommonly seedy when he took his seat in the House next day. Nevertheless, the leader of the Business Party rose to his feet at question time and asked whether the President could now inform the House "who constituted the Board of Trade?"

"Myself, his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, and a number of phantoms," replied the President with a shudder.

A murmur ran along the benches. "Not well," "Breaking up," "Run down," were some of the muttered observations.

"When did the Board last meet, and where?" demanded another member of the Business Party.

The President staggered to his feet again.

"The Board of Trade—met last night—in my study," replied the President with obvious difficulty. The next moment he was led into the lobby and dosed with brandy.

LIFE.

If Science states the sun's warm rays
Brought Protoplasm into life,
One question I should like to raise—
"Now, who was Protoplasm's wife?"

T. F. C.

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B26

HIS MAJESTY'S GUESTS.

MORE PRISON REFORMS.

By Richard Morton.

We have received an advance copy of some more draft rules, not yet issued by the Home Office, and to which the signature of Mr. Churchill has not yet been attached.

Briefly stated, the main proposals embodied in these Supplementary Rules are as follows:—

Involuntary guests in the State houses of temporary detention shall be divided into two classes, first and third. The second class has been abolished.

After twenty-four hours in the third class, a prisoner shall be entitled, if of exemplary conduct for that period, to pass into the first class, and shall be awarded a certificate and bronze medal. Opportunities will be subsequently afforded him of earning other certificates and silver medals, and of exchanging these for good conduct stripes, money, cigars, or a bottle of wine now and then.

Guests will, if desired, be instructed in any profession by competent masters, or may study for a degree if preferred. Almost any vocation is open to their choice, the only professions absolutely barred being poetry and the three-card trick, these being unproductive and hazardous.

Each guest will have his own garden allotment, with a warder appointed to do the heavy work under competent supervision. Seeds and plants will be supplied by the authorities. It was at first contemplated that a burglar should be required to supply his own plant, but the idea was abandoned when it was pointed out that this would be subjecting the gentleman to unfair expense.

The south wall surrounding each home (or prison) shall be devoted to wall fruit, such as plums, nectarines, peaches, pears, apricots, etc. The fruit will be the property of the guests, and may be (when ripe) consumed by them, or sold by them in the nearest market town or at Covent Garden.

The sums realised by such sales shall be invested for the benefit of the guests, each guest receiving a share proportionate to the period of his detention.

A similar rule as to sale and allocation of profits will apply to the product of the guests' gardens.

Glasshouses and hot-houses are under consideration, and will probably be erected for the benefit of long-time guests.

Guests will be allowed to write letters and receive friends without restriction as to number, and a canteen will be opened, with smoking-room attached, where refreshments will be supplied at reasonable charges. All canteen profits will go to the account of the guests as aforesaid.

There will be a variety entertainment at least once a week, to which guests may invite their friends, both ladies and gentlemen. The artists appearing at such entertainments will be supplied by agents in London, a weekly vote being taken among the guests to decide the names of such popular star performers as are most desired.

An exhibition of living pictures will be provided three times daily, for guests only.

Scientific and literary lectures may be delivered from time to time, but no guest shall be obliged to attend these if he would rather be excused.

Any guest earning a gold medal will be entitled to a week-end holiday, not more often than once a week, from Friday night till Tuesday morning. His expenses for travelling and board and lodging will be paid him by the Treasury; any further sums required will be advanced on account of the funds accruing as aforesaid.

The possession of a gold medal absolutely entitles a guest to this weekly change of air, on the sole condition that he must show the gold medal on his departure, and on his return must show the same or the ticket therefor.

First-class prisoners shall have free access to lending library, smoking-rooms, and card-rooms. Cards will be provided free of charge, and billiard tables are to be established in the more important homes. The warders will mark, but are forbidden to play.

Golf links are being planned on Dartmoor and other suitable locations.

To prevent any misapprehension, in each public room in each of the said homes or houses of detention, a placard shall be placed, stating:

"THIS IS A PRISON."

Otherwise the guests mightn't know.

"LUXURIOUS LINERS."

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

The letter we published in our issue of February 18th has brought us a large batch of correspondence, mostly from those who do not agree with its complaint. As we have no wish to be unjust to the Managers of the Cunard Line we readily give the other side of the picture.

"One Who Knows the Ropes" refers as follows to the stewards:—

> From the highest to the lowest of the ships' officers, I was treated with uniform kindness, consideration and respect. I cannot believe that these men could be so changed as to act arrogantly, unless your complainant is one of those high and mighty gentlemen who bring such treatment on themselves.
>
> For thirteen pounds I had a cabin (with three gentlemen) certainly 12 feet square, with two wash basins and every other comfort and luxury possible in any well-appointed hotel.
>
> At 6.30 one is aroused by a polite steward, who comes in with fruit and coffee—next the bathroom steward invites one to a luxurious plunge in hot or cold salt water; 7.30 a breakfast is served better than any I have yet found in an ordinary English hotel, such as at a railway station; 10 a.m. a band concert and beef broth and biscuits; 12.30 a splendid dinner of four or five courses; 4 p.m., another band concert and tea and cake or bread-and-butter; 6.30 high tea, meat, fish, etc., etc.; 9 p.m. supper, biscuits and cheese. The ventilation on my voyage was absolutely perfect. Electric fans and exhausters on every deck by the score. We had about 300 passengers in the second cabin, and I didn't hear a complaint of any sort.

Mr. Robert Ransom writes us a long letter, in the course of which he says that he left New York in the *Lusitania* on the 28th September last, second class:—

> The life of the average steward can be termed nothing short of "white slavery," as he is the hardest-worked man of the entire crew, and at the beck and call of everybody. His average working day is 18 hours—I speak as a second-class steward—and work of the hardest description. He is called at 5 a.m., and has to discharge any duties which have been allocated to him, such as carrying up stores from the cold chamber, etc., etc., attend to his personal toilet, lay up his table, and be prepared to attend to his passengers with a smiling face when they appear at 8.30 a.m. to partake of a good breakfast after nine or ten hours sound sleep. His work is continuous throughout the entire day, and at the conclusion, about 10.30 p.m., he has to slip into his working overalls and commence to scrub the deck of the saloon whilst the passengers are retiring to their uncomfortable (?) cabins.
>
> For this almost super-human work the Cunard Company pay, or did pay, the princely salary of £3 17s. per month (from which there may be deductions made) out of which the unfortunate steward has to provide his own uniform, working overalls, etc., etc., and also laundry, a by no means insignificant item.
>
> The ordinary boats make the return trip once a month, a week in each direction, which reduces the time for receiving tips to two weeks out of every four, and some such addition to his income is absolutely necessary if the man has responsibilities ashore, as many of them have.
>
> Is it to be wondered at, then, that tips are looked for and expected, or is there any drastic difference to hotel life ashore—there being a complete analogy between the two instances?

Another second class passenger writes:—

> I hold no brief for the Cunard Company, but must say that your correspondent's statements do not tally with my experience. I agree tipping is a nuisance, and four shillings for a deck chair rather a long price, but all the passengers with whom I have got into conversation (which, I might inform you, is a great many) have always expressed the opinion that a dollar tip for the cabin, table and smoking-room stewards is ample, *and usual*. On my trips only a few passengers have paid these three stewards to the extent of a dollar and a half, ten shillings being the exception.

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For Particulars, see THIS WEEK'S

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F. E. Smith, Esq., K.C., M.P., writes on February 10th, 1911:

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A GREAT WORK FOR MASONS.

By Robert Freke Gould.

This great work, of which a new issue is now appearing, is an exhaustive study of everything relating to Freemasonry, its antiquities, symbols, constitutions, customs, and history; it includes a full investigation of the authentic records of the fraternity all over the world.

It is therefore a treasury of information on a subject on which expert and reliable information has hitherto been almost inaccessible.

But "The History of Freemasonry," apart from its value as a reliable work treating of all historical and practical information relating to the Craft, is a book of the most fascinating interest, and one which will be read again and again by every Mason who wishes to keep in touch with the glorious records of his Society, as well as by the large class of general readers, to whom out-of-the-way information on a subject that is confessedly invested with mystery always appeals.

The magnificent illustrations include 36 fine coloured plates illustrating Masonic clothing and regalia, high-class etched frontispieces, and fine engravings of Masonic Marks, Medals, and Plates of Arms.

Three Opinions.

The Right Hon. Thomas F. Halsey (Deputy Grand Master):

"I must congratulate you on the way the work is got up, which I think most admirable. It will be a most valuable book of reference and study to all who take an interest in the Craft."

Sir Edward Letchworth (Grand Secretary):

"A decided improvement on previous issues, and I hope you will have a good sale for it."

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Whether we consider this beautiful edition of "The History of Freemasonry" from the point of view of its fulness of detail, the interesting and even fascinating nature of its treatment, its wealth of illustration, its excellence as to type, paper, and handsome binding, there is no doubt that the work is really worthy of a great and important body that has not hitherto received its fair share of consideration at the hands of the historian.

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WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BUSINESS?

To the thoughtless, the easygoing, or the very young man this question may at first glance seem an insult.

Such a one would answer in an off-handed sort of way:—"Why, I am in Business—I am a Business man. I know all about Business—or I ought to do so."

Yes! But does he?

Let me put the same question to you.

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For instance, do you understand Book-keeping thoroughly? Could you draw up a balance-sheet? Do you understand a profit and loss account? Do you know when recovery of book debts is barred?

Do you know the law as it specially affects your own particular trade, business, or calling? Do you know anything at all about manufacturing? Do you know how to figure depreciations? How to check leakage? Do you understand time-keeping systems?

You do not? Not thoroughly and authoritatively. Yet these things are business knowledge.

Do you know much about the Income Tax? Do you know Company Law? Do you know the cost of the formation of a Company? The methods of amalgamation? Do you understand the conversion of shares into stock? Do you understand Compulsory Winding-up? Do you know all about County Court Business, Judgments, etc.?

Yet these matters are Business Knowledge. And if you want to make money in business you must either know them or know where you can get authoritative and complete and up-to-date information concerning them and concerning the thousand and one points of doubt or difficulty that beset the business man in the course of his business day.

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.....

THE ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

HOW THE ADMIRALTY TREATS INJURED MEN.

We have received the following from a Glasgow reader :—

"Would you grant me the space in John Bull to cite the following case, which has occurred in connection with the Clyde Division of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve? On the 19th September, 1910, a friend of mine, while at drill at the 6in. loader, the extractor number, in extracting the cartridge, threw it on his left hand; by the accident he was unable to follow his usual employment until the 10th October, 1910, and during that time he was under the care of the doctor for the division. He expected that he would receive free medical attendance. But judge of his surprise when he received his compensation to find that he had to pay the doctor's fee. He was told at the Drill Hall that when he started work he was to bring a note from his foreman stating his rate of wages and the time he was off work. The note stated that he had been off work from the 20th September until the 8th October, Sunday inclusive, which would make it twenty days. However, when he received his compensation it was at the rate of 3s. 6d. per day for 17 days, which comes to £2 19s. 6d., less £1 6s. for doctor's expenses. Now I think this is a very great hardship. My friend stated his case to the lieutenant of his company, who brought it before the Commander Instructor for the Clyde Division, and the commander referred the matter to headquarters. The reply from the Admiralty was to the effect that the rule which granted free doctor had been altered in June, 1910, and that the 3s. 6d. per day granted as compensation by the Admiralty was in lieu of all expenses.

"Now we are told that this rule was altered in June. Well, this is now the month of February, and I find that no notice has been posted up in the Drill Hall to that effect. Perhaps there is a reason for this; the men whose three years are up in December, 1910, would perhaps have asked for their discharge, and it also would hurt recruits for 1911. Now the King's Regulations as regards the Territorials are, free doctor and medicine, the compensation resting with the commanding officer, but from enquiries made I find that the men receive compensation equal to wages lost. But the men of the R.N.V.R. are treated by the Admiralty with this miserable 3s. 6d. per day, and have to pay the doctor out of it. It is very plain to all that, if the doctor's expenses should be £4, and the man's compensation £3, the man would have to pay the other £1 out of his own pocket. Truly this is patriotism with a vengeance!"

We will certainly have a few words with Mr. McKenna about it.

THE "JOHN BULL" BIOSCOPE.

A series of Bioscope pictures, depicting how John Bull and Mrs. Bull are produced, is being shown in various towns and cities on the cinematograph of the "John Bull Entertainment." To-day (Thursday) the car will be in Framlingham; Friday, Wickham Market; Saturday, Woodbridge; Monday, Ipswich; Tuesday, Ipswich; Wednesday, Manningtree; and readers and their friends in the districts should not fail to see these well-known periodicals "in the making."

A QUEEN OF PANTOMIME.

Everybody is talking about Miss Peggy Primrose, whose success as principal girl in "Old King Cole" at the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, has been one of the events of the pantomime season. Dainty, pretty, and extremely clever, Miss Primrose, by her refinement of manner and sweetness of style, lifted the *role* of the Princess to a height not often reached in pantomime, and we predict that there will be keen competition for her services next season—unless, indeed, she should have decided, in the meantime, to confine her attention to musical comedy.

We understand, on the authority of Mr. Bircham, in a letter addressed to a shareholder, that the Committee of the Law Guarantee Trust and Accident Society have reported that a public inquiry is desirable.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?
See page ii, of Cover.

THE TREATMENT OF THE TURTLE.

TESTIMONY OF A SHIP'S OFFICER.

The following letter should give an additional relish to the lovers of turtle soup. It comes to us from an officer now at Mandalay :—

Having read your recent remarks about the treatment of turtles being sent to London, I should like to give you my experience of their journey at sea before being landed at Southampton, when I was an officer in the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.

The turtles were first brought aboard by means of a sling round the two front flappers, and it was a common occurrence for the sling to slip, dropping the turtle 20 or 30 feet into the boat alongside the steamer, or on to the wharf, as the case may be. I have seen many with cracked and bleeding shells, and although I have remarked on this sort of thing when being ordered to superintend their embarkation, have been told that they have no feeling in the shell, or that it was the usual thing. When once on board, they were stowed close together on their backs, exposed to all weathers on the boat deck, with no protection whatever. During the whole of their journey of about 12 days, they received no food of any kind—unless having the hose played on them twice daily constitutes a meal. I know that one to four died daily, as all deaths were entered in the steamer's log book in red ink, and the dead bodies put in the refrigerator.

UNCOMMON COMMON COMPLAINTS.—III.

By G. G. Woodward.

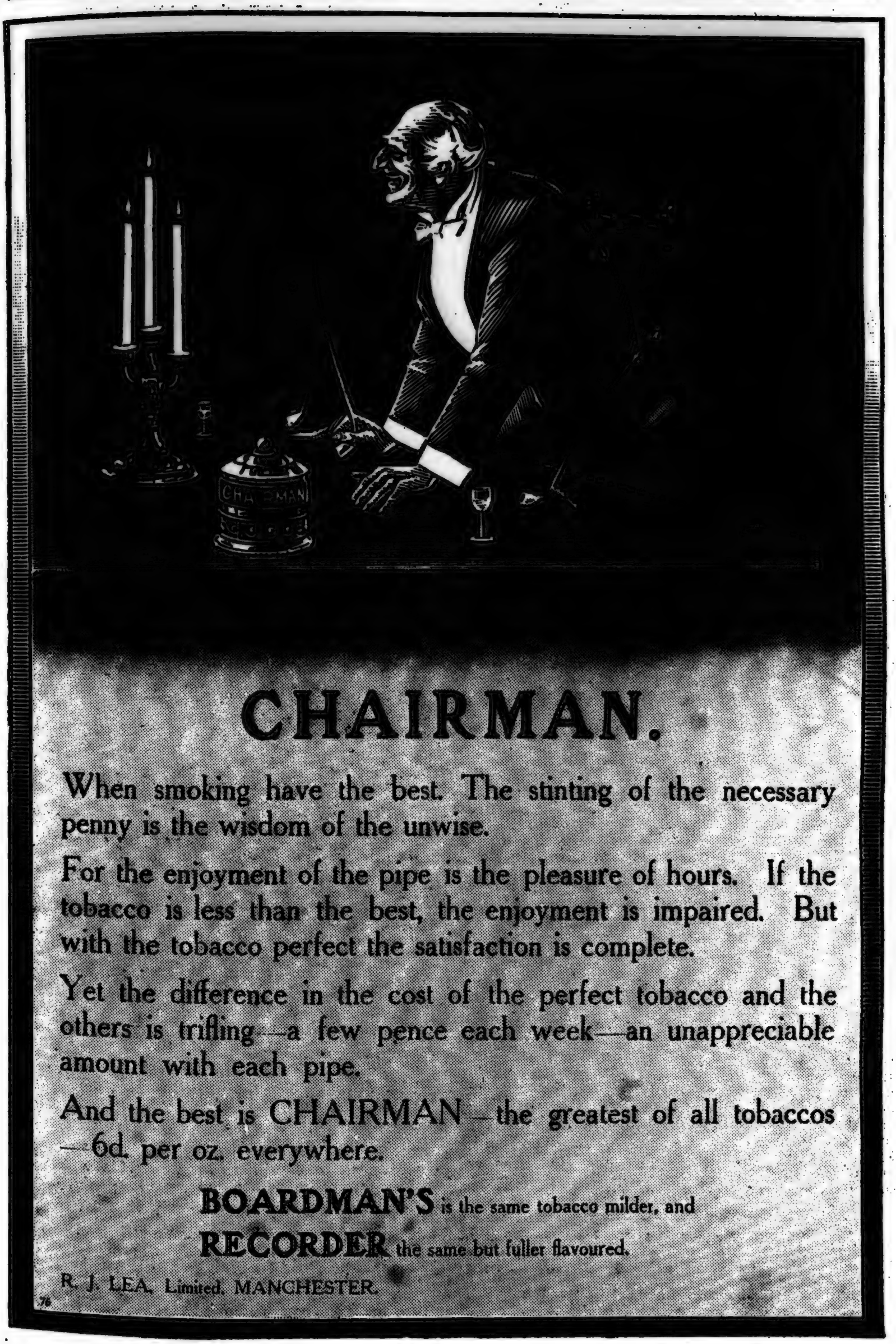
"CAPUT INFLATOR," COMMONLY KNOWN AS SWELLED HEAD.

This well-known complaint has very peculiar characteristics, which separate it in a marked manner from any other disease. Perfectly apparent to an outsider, and ridiculously easy of diagnosis by any layman, not to mention medical practitioners, in nine cases out of ten the patient himself is quite unconscious of its presence, and should he be in any way suspicious of an attack, he will do his best to elude and thwart those who are anxious to cure him.

The name by which it is known, although very expressive, is somewhat misleading, the most careful internal measurements of hat or collar giving no indication of the presence of the disease, albeit in its acutest form the depth of the collar might in some cases, especially in a youthful subject, cause the disease to be suspected, but it is no infallible guide. The expansion of the chest and the peculiar angle at which the hat is worn, and the shiny appearance of the latter, are better data on which to go, but these again are often misleading, as in extreme cases the very negligence of the attire is an indication of the disease. It is well, therefore, not to attach undue importance to outward symptoms, but to study the actions of the patient. A craving for standing in the limelight and all that that implies is an infallible test of the presence of the malady. Actors, clergymen, Members of Parliament, borough officials, and all engaged in a public life are peculiarly subject to attack, and at no age are suitable subjects immune from its ravages, the youth of both sexes being frequent victims. It is not infectious and the separation of the sufferer from his fellows is quite unnecessary—in fact, the opposite course is much more likely to have a beneficial effect, rubbing shoulders with one's equals being often, especially in the young, conducive to a speedy cure of the disease. In the case of older patients, more drastic means are needed. Marriage is generally an infallible remedy to those afflicted, but should the complaint appear later in life, bleeding (at the pocket) will often effect a cure where other means fail.

"JOHN BULL" FOODS.

As some misunderstanding has arisen; we wish to make it quite clear to our readers and others that we are in no way connected with "The 'John Bull' Foods, Ltd.," of 4, Amberley House, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C., and St. Neots, Huntingdonshire.



CHAIRMAN.

When smoking have the best. The stinting of the necessary penny is the wisdom of the unwise.

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Yet the difference in the cost of the perfect tobacco and the others is trifling—a few pence each week—an unappreciable amount with each pipe.

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BOARDMAN'S is the same tobacco milder, and

RECORDER the same but fuller flavoured.

R. J. LEA, Limited, MANCHESTER.

76

"THE CRIPPEN GHOST?"

A REMARKABLE LETTER.

A "Deaf-mute Scientific Palmist" writes as follows:—

The strange experiences of Mr. Sandy McNab at 39, Hilldrop Crescent, narrated in a recent issue are rather puzzling. Are they merely natural, or are they supernatural? The transmigration of souls is still believed in by some uncivilised tribes, just as in the time of Pythagoras.

According to Spiritualism, mediums, while in a trance, are possessed by the spirits of the departed, who speak through their organs of speech. But it is rather repulsive to think of poor Mrs. Crippen's spirit taking the shape of a drunken man. For the soul of a very cruel man to appear in the form of a cat—a cruel animal—seems more logical.

Frauds and impostures by unscrupulous people who have posed as Spiritualists have from time to time been exposed; yet Spiritualism, when it is divested of all claptrap, seems to have something at the bottom of it. With some trance medium in the house, and a number of friends also present, perhaps Mr. McNab might have found out something. Could there have been a message from poor tortured Mrs. Crippen?

Would the whole story of that tragic night have been revealed? Now and then, during the course of my past life (I am past sixty) I have had dreams in which I have seen spirits. On one occasion I saw a lady whose face I remembered to have seen many years ago. Next day I had news that she died the previous night.

We have—curiously enough—a black cat in our house which sleeps every night in a cupboard full of newspapers. Some twenty years ago a drunken man got into our house and caused much trouble.

Mr. McNab's pluck and nerve are splendid; but he had better (if he will excuse a stranger suggesting it) have a few cheerful friends staying with him, to help to investigate any uncanny occurrence.

Just a few words about Crippen. I have many times deeply regretted it was not in my power to get introduced to Crippen after his condemnation, so that I might have made a careful reading of his hands. Presuming his wife really died of poisoning, there would have been confirmatory marks on his hands. Commencing from a point on his hands, it would have been possible to tell something of his married life, and to trace it to its tragic ending. With permission from solicitor and client, much could have been discovered and written down.

Only fifteen to twenty minutes' careful examination of the hands with a powerful magnifying glass; but in that short time what discoveries might have been made! The marriage, at first romantic, happy—then the evil influences which gradually alienated husband and wife. After that, quarrels, reproaches, misery, threats of suicide. Then the terrible climax.

Strange that such a large and influential section of the Press are so hostile to allowing the hands of criminals to be read; and still stranger, that they should reject and deny the use of hand-reading in the prevention of crime.

AUSTRALIAN BEEF.

WE MOVE THE AUTHORITIES.

A consignment of eighty-five casks of beef from Australia arrived in London recently, and on examination was found to contain *flanks and briskets* which had been cut off forequarters. After examination by the Medical Officer of Health for the Port of London, "as it was an early consignment, at the request of the importers, they were allowed to re-export it to Australia"! It is more satisfactory, however, to learn that the consignors have been informed that if any future similar consignment arrives and is found to contain "worm," the meat will be seized, a magisterial order obtained for its condemnation, and they will be dealt with subsequently by the law.

Our readers will remember that in our exposure of this infected beef, we pointed out that the worm was to be found in the *flanks and briskets*, and that it was questionable whether other portions of the forequarters were contaminated.

The usual method was to saw off these infected parts in London. How they were subsequently disposed of we have, until now, been unable to find out. Can it be that they are salted down for our sailors?

THE DARTMOOR SHEPHERD.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEW.

By Walter Moore.

Eureka! I have found him—the famous David Davies, *protege* of the compassionate Chancellor of the Exchequer and the sweetly sympathetic Winston Churchill.

Where?—Ah, that is another story.

"Why, David!" I cried, "wherever have you been?"

"What's that to you?" demanded David gruffly. "Are you another of 'em?"

"Another of them?" I repeated. "Another of whom?"

"Them political chaps wot was arter me," growled David.

Mr. Davies proved himself an adept at handling a flask.

"I wos afeared you wos," he remarked, passing the back of his hand across his mouth.

"Was what?" I asked.

"One of them there chaps," he returned, seating himself on a hillock with great deliberation.

"Not I," I affirmed stoutly. "By the way, who were they?"

"Political chaps," responded the Shepherd. "Two of 'em. First one come. Then t'other. Thought you might be the third, like."

"Tell me all about it," I said, throwing myself on the heather at his side.

"It was arter they took me away from Dartymoor and my ship—all my pretty ship, wot I'll never see no more"

Two heavy tears rolled down David's rugged cheeks. I blinked and coughed. It is a poignant sight to see a strong man weep.

"They put me on a farm in Wales," continued the Shepherd presently. "Don't you 'ave no truck with them Welshers, sir. That's my advice."

"Heaven forbid!" I ejaculated fervently.

"But that ain't nothin' to do with wot I'm agoin' to tell you," proceeded David. "I 'adn't been on the farm long afore a gent comes up to me one day—a proper gent, 'e looked. All 'is Sunday cloes on."

"'David Davies?' 'e ses.

"'At your sarvice,' ses I.

"'Would you like to earn a ten pun' note?' 'e ses, 'an start life fresh in a noo country w'ere nobody knows nothink about your past?' 'e ses.

"'I'd rather go back to Dartymoor an' tend my ship,' I ses.

"'You can't do that,' 'e ses. 'You'd better take my advice an' the ten pun' note.'

"'W'ere do you want me to go?' I ses; 'an' wot for?'

"'To Canada,' 'e ses; 'an' I'll tell you why.'

"Then 'e ses as 'ow the Tory party wanted me to go right away and disappear, so as to make Lloyd Garge an' Winston Churchill look fools. And I sed as 'ow I'd think it over. So 'e sed 'e'd call again in a day or two."

"I didn't want to go to no Canada," continued David. "I wanted to go back to Dartymoor and tend my ship. Got a name for each one of 'em, I 'ave; and they come w'en I call 'em."

I emitted a murmur of sympathy.

"Nex' day another chap comes up to me w'en I'm at work. 'David Davies?' 'e ses.

"'At your sarvice,' ses I.

"'Could you do with a ten pun' note?' 'e ses.

"'That depends,' I ses. 'Wot should I 'ave to do for it?'

"'Start life fresh in a noo country,' 'e ses, 'w'ere nobody knows nothink about your past. Australy,' 'e ses—'a bootiful country.'

"'Why do you want me to go to Australy?' I ses.

"Then 'e tells me the Liberal party want me to disappear and never come back no more, so as they can say that the Tory party 'ave 'id me away so as to make Lloyd Garge and Winston Churchill look fools. So I sed I'd think it over, and 'e sed 'e'd come back in a day or two.

"I didn't want to go to no Australy nor no Canada, so I just ran away and 'id meself, case they wos to take me away by force. But now *you've* found me," concluded David, looking at me uneasily.

"Don't worry," I said. "I won't tell anybody where you are."

And I won't.

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ILLNESS.

By Jim Crow.

[Mr. James Crow is our Licensed Crank. A brilliant exponent of unconventional ideas—invariably distorted and lacking in perspective; cynical and epigrammatic in expression—he is a journalistic cat amongst the pigeons. We accept no responsibility for his opinions—or his life.]

It is a commonplace with my brother-theologians that illness has a chastening, salutary, elevating effect; that it is indeed a blessing in disguise. If so, why not remain ill all the time; why bother about physic, stomach-pumps, leeches, clinical thermometers?

Magnificent Maladies.

Of course, some diseases are graceful, dignified, almost exhilarating. See the noble, white-bearded father or the frail, pink mother or consumptive miss, propped up with cushions in a gaudy bath-chair—what a noble procession it is by the sea-front, with nurses and anxious relatives hovering round to soothe puckered brows as the ragged retainer shuffles along at snail's pace. How deferentially we bend to catch the slightest murmur of the husky voice of the beloved, how we wonder over the infinite patience, fortitude, cheerfulness which are displayed in adversity. What pictures we conjure up of long nights devoted to tossing in agony, of fevered foreheads and parched lips and aching limbs.

Imaginary Illnesses.

There is often, however, an enormous amount of humbug about invalids. They proclaim themselves delicate, and snatch the excuse for surrendering themselves to their laziness and greed. They must always have breakfast in bed; they must be pampered with all the good things which love or money can procure; all their lightest whims must be gratified. Whereas, really and truly, they are just as robust as you or I. If you have to live with people like that, you are apt to grow impatient and cease to enquire about their sleep, or forget their rugs and hot-water-bottles when they drive, or snap when they whine and snuffle. But if you only know them at a distance, you pity and admire them, while you denounce the inhumanity of their callous family.

Sickening Sickness.

Some maladies are incapable of being illustrated by any amount of virtue. They are merely nasty. I defy the holiest saint or the most solemn senator to carry off a mucous cough, or a running nose, or unsavoury putrescence, with majesty and charm. Even alcoholic remorse often fails to attract pity. In their own interests, people who are offensively ill ought to be restricted to their bed-chambers, to the society of the professional ministers of sickness—cool, white-capped nurses; genial, optimistic doctors; dogmatic divines.

Impatience with Patients.

For my part, I hate visiting the sick. They weary me. They disgust me. I have nothing to say to them. If I am ribald, light-hearted, anxious to cheer them up, they only think I am unfeeling. If I pull a long face and groan in sympathy, I only make them worse. Or else I overdo my sorrow and they doubt my sincerity. Perhaps I have not been gifted with a good bedside manner. The restraints of a sick-room certainly disconcert me. I must not smoke, I may not laugh or make loud noises, I cannot be my jovial, rollicking self. Five minutes is about as much as I can stand of it. Then I look at my gold watch, leap to my feet and hurriedly proclaim an engagement of paramount importance.

The Holiday of Ill-health.

I used to boast that I was never ill. But I have been suffering lately from blackwater fever, and double pneumonia, and senile decay. I hated it all at the time, but, like a journey in the wilderness, it is not bad to look back upon. For one thing, it was a complete holiday. I could not attend to any business, no one (except my lawyers) expected me to answer letters; even you, dearly beloved brethren, had to forego my hebdomadal ministrations. Then I had exactly what I liked to eat and drink: turtle soup, beef tea, oysters, boiled chicken, champagne and peaches. It is rather nice to be able to pamper yourself with a clear conscience. Of course you do not enjoy meals thoroughly when you are full of fever and can scarcely prop up your head unaided. But the memory of gastronomic delight affords an intellectual treat.

The Pavement of Hell.

There are also joys which pertain to convalescence, simple pleasures like strolling through pine-woods beside a silvern sea, the glory of returning appetites, the triumphant abandonment of good resolutions. I suppose most of us devote the long hours of prostration to a review of the past and a reconstruction of the future. I made up my mind that I would never waste time again, that I would eschew wine and women, that I would complete all the books I have begun to write, that I would be true and just in all my dealings and love my neighbour as myself—which last is saying a good deal. And now, alas, here I am upon the house-tops once more. It is the old story of "The Devil was sick." Still, the phase of having conceived good resolutions cannot have done any harm.

Scriptures for the Sick.

I wish some of my readers would suggest suitable literature for the sick. The early-Victorian idea was that it should be restricted to theology. I remember when I had measles as a boy, kind people used to come and read bits of the Bible or Hymns Ancient and Modern in still, small voices. Indeed, I can almost feel, even now, the comfortable thrills which were evoked by the chorus of "O Paradise," though as a matter of fact it almost amounted to an invocation of death. During my recent illness I am afraid I indulged in lighter, less edifying scriptures. I read some lurid reminiscences of early days on the diamond-fields at Kimberley, all about fighting and thieving, but the society of bar-loafers and illicit diamond buyers was not precisely a febrifuge. Then I turned to "Les Petites Alliées," a novel about the half-world of Toulon, and French is certainly a soothing tongue, but here again the pace was too fast, the carnival atmosphere acted as an irritant. I suppose what I really wanted was something like the "Meditations of Marcus Aurelius," or "My Lady Poverty," by Saint Francis of Assisi.

Febrile Fancies.

But what I should have liked best of all would have been to hear Omar Khayyam chaunted by a fair maiden to some old Gregorian tune. The great thing, of course, is to cultivate sick man's fancies with all possible diligence. When I next build a castle, I shall have an infirmary as well as a refectory, and I shall hie thither directly I feel a twinge. The windows will all be of very dark stained glass, like those at Barcelona Cathedral. I will have white statues of all my heroes, from Heliogobalus and Ahab to Patrick Sarsfield and Winston Churchill. A fountain of rare scents shall cease not, day or night. A minstrel's gallery will offer hospitality to my harpist, who shall play behind pale tapestries. And in my delirium I will order pipers to strut about the sick-room, discoursing Jacobite melodies. Thus illness will become almost a delight.

A Sigh for Sympathy.

As it is, I almost hesitate to fall ill, lest I should cause trouble to others. I am not naturally unselfish, but I grow unhappy if I cannot keep my friends amused and happy and cheerful. It is not that I care a fig for their happiness, but I enjoy being the centre of a crowd, compelling people to hang on my words, realizing what a fine fellow I am. Now, who can feel a fine fellow when he has to bury his head in pillows, when he sinks deeper and deeper into a couch, when he wants to bang his head against a wall and moan, "Dead, dead, dead"? Again, I am too proud to accept pity at all graciously. As a matter of fact, the sick really attract very little pity at all. When I had been at death's door for about ten days, people only said, "Hallo, you do look a crock," or "I say, have you been on the house again?" The unfeeling brutes! Yes, but I find it just as difficult to worry over other people's ailments. In fact, I often console myself by reflecting that, if So-and-so dies, a debt will be wiped off, or that, while What's-his-name has small-pox, I need not bother about overdue apologies. It is a hard world, is it not?

Crowded houses at the Empire are welcoming the new review, "By George!" Practically every thing and person occupying the public eye receives humorous treatment at the able hands of Mr. Geo. Grossmith—including this journal and its editor. The gigantic production runs without a hitch, and there has certainly been no better *revue* at the Leicester Square palace. The rest of the programme is also well up to the excellent Empire standard.

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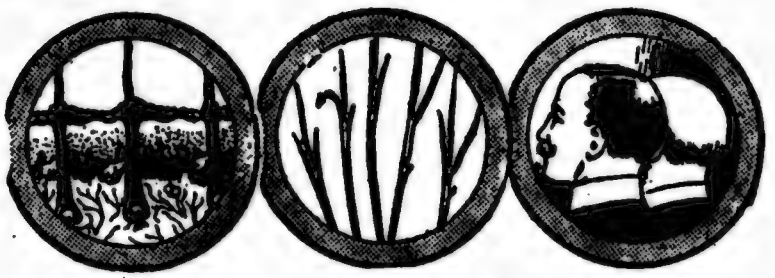

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Society men who desire to keep well groomed, and Society ladies who know full well how rich, healthy-looking hair adds to their beauty, have long used Mr. Warner Oliver's preparations, and now a host of others will be able to take advantage of his exceptional skill. "Warnol" is a genuine hair-growing preparation in which the specialist inventor has the fullest confidence.

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Any Chemist or Store in every town is able to supply it, but if you have the slightest difficulty in getting your supply locally, remit direct to Messrs. Warner Oliver, Ltd., 4, Holles Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., and a bottle will be sent post free.

OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To the Right Hon. John Burns, M.P., President Local Government Board, London.

Right Hon. Battersea,—Have you read the account of an inquest on Samuel Oakley, a foreman baker, who collapsed in the bakehouse of Mr. Carl Pohl, High Street, Borough, and subsequently died in Guy's Hospital? I hope you have, because it illustrates the infinite possibilities of underground bakehouses. Oakley started work at six o'clock in the evening and did not leave until about 1 o'clock the next afternoon, so that he was at work nineteen hours a day. At Easter he worked 34 hours at a stretch. The evidence to which I desire to draw your close attention is that of a fellow worker of the dead man. Oakley, he said, went to work as usual on Tuesday, and complained of having had no sleep. At 8.30 p.m. they both lay down to sleep in the bakehouse. "What?" exclaimed the coroner. "Where the bread is made? That is not very nice. Have you no bed or couch?" "No," responded the witness, "we make our beds." "On a dough trough?" "Yes, sir." "While the dough is rising underneath?" "Yes, sir," was the answer; and for all either of us knows, it may have been the dough of standard bread. However that may be, it is a fair inference that what happens in one bakehouse probably happens in others. Where there is a bad there is usually a worse; and I wish to ask you whether a trough used for the making of bread—standard, white or fancy—is, in the opinion of the Local Government Board, a suitable couch upon which half-naked bakers should rest their weary limbs. If so, perhaps you will have the goodness to authorise the use of a suitable quantity of standard dough as pillows.

John Bull.

To A. R. Chamberlain, Esq., Chairman, Licensing Magistrates, Norwich.

Sir,—Perhaps the magistrates were wise in not disclosing their reasons for refusing the application which Messrs. Morgans recently made to them. Messrs. Morgans are the proprietors of an inn, behind which there were formerly some maltings which extended to the river. The maltings have been pulled down, and what the firm proposed to do was to utilise the site as a garden in which people could take their refreshments while watching the passing boats. They did not intend to erect any new buildings; their only application being for permission to establish a connection between the inn and the garden.

Here was a chance of encouraging an interesting experiment—one which, I think, would have been to the public advantage. I believe that the more open air you can get into what the aquapuritans call the drink traffic, the more you will promote the cause of temperance. The improvement of the public house is, indeed, the most practical step in true Temperance reform. To their credit, the police were quick to recognise this fact, and did not oppose the application. The decision of the Bench is, therefore, incomprehensible, and is to be explained only on the theory of—well, shall I say, pure cussedness?

John Bull.

To Alderman Killjoy Bulley, J.P., Liscard.

Dear Killjoy,—I trust Liscard appreciates the fact that it has in you a gentleman who will take care of its Sunday. A few days ago, the magistrates had before them an application for a music and singing licence for a Sunday concert by the band of His Majesty's Scots Guards. In refusing the licence, you said the Guards band did not strike you as being one to give sacred music. "Sacred," you went on to remark, "should convey the idea of religion; now it practically amounts to a concert of good-class music."

When the military bands play in London, under the auspices of the Sunday League, the halls are crowded with appreciative listeners who derive nothing except good from the performance. There are hundreds of beautiful and impressive musical compositions which are not "sacred" in your sense, only because they are unallied to verbal expressions of religious emotion; but apart from this fact the military bands playing on Sundays frequently include in their programmes such hymns as "Lead, kindly light" and "Abide with me."

The truth is, dear Killjoy, you think in terms of your bigotry and intolerance.

John Bull.

To the Rev. W. P. Douglas, Vicar of St. Mark's Church, Washwood Heath.

Reverend Sir,—What is this I hear? A new church was opened last September, and a verger and caretaker was advertised for at 30s. per week. A Mr. Cullen obtained the post, but was then informed that, although nominally the salary was 30s., 8s. would have to be deducted for rent of the Church House, in which he would have to live, together with another deduction of 2s. as a commission on any fees he might receive from weddings—whether there were any or not. This brought the wages down to 20s.

But that is not all. On taking possession of the Church House, the new verger learnt that the Vicar, being a bachelor, also resided there, and, further, that he expected his board to be provided for him for 10s. per week! This was stated to have been the sum paid to Cullen's predecessor, although, apparently, your memory had betrayed you—the correct figure, it is said, having been 12s. Mr. and Mrs. Cullen, not unnaturally, expressed doubt whether they could board "a gentleman" for what a labourer would pay. However, like good folk, they were willing to try. I am told that the following is your normal daily menu: Breakfast—Two eggs, bacon, toast, etc. Dinner—Meat, two vegetables, two sweets. Tea—Toast, potted meats, fruit. Supper—Toast and pint of hot milk, and the Cullens soon found that the milk bill alone came to 2s. 4d. per week. So they told you that it was impossible to continue the contract, and suggested that, "as a help," you should at least pay your milk bill. You assented, but on the first account being submitted, you went to the milk-shop and paid for 1 pint per day, being that which you drank at night, and told the milkman that the other must be charged against the verger, as he was "making quite enough out of you."

Now, sir, you have a good stipend, and, in addition, you have an independent income; and I await an explanation of your incredible meanness.

John Bull.

To the Rev. R. M. Curwen, Rector of Elstead, Surrey.

Rev. Sir,—You are a man after my own heart, and if there were more parsons like you we should hear far less about Disestablishment. Nearly all the members of your cloth regard Sunday, for some mysterious reason, as a "day of wrath, a dreadful day," on which the only distractions permissible for villagers are loafing in lanes and soaking in public-houses. You, however, have taken a different view. For the last three and a half years you have lent your meadow to your parishioners and encouraged them to play healthy games on Sunday afternoons. This is not only wise of you, but plucky. I only hope it may not bring down ecclesiastical censures on your head, and that the ignoble army of Killjoys will not ban you with bell, book and candle. Good luck to you.

John Bull.

To Lord Fitzwilliam.

My Lord,—Who on earth prompted that silly invention about William the Conqueror's scarf? No doubt it would be pretty to have a pedigree that went so far back, and such a garment might have figured picturesquely at your son's christening. But unfortunately the Conqueror never wore a scarf, as you might have found out for yourself by a glance at the Bayeux tapestry. Again, the old aboriginal Fitzwilliams became extinct in 1516, and you are only descended from a gentleman of Queen Elizabeth's time, who stole the arms and pedigree of the old Fitzwilliams. But that does not justify you in perpetuating the theft or in making an exhibition of yourself with a mythical scarf. By the way, where did you get that scarf?

John Bull.

Right Rev. George Nickson, D.D., Bishop-Suffragan, Jarrow.

Looking forward your doing liberal, broad-minded, earnest work when you come London as Bishop Southwark. Congratulations and welcome.

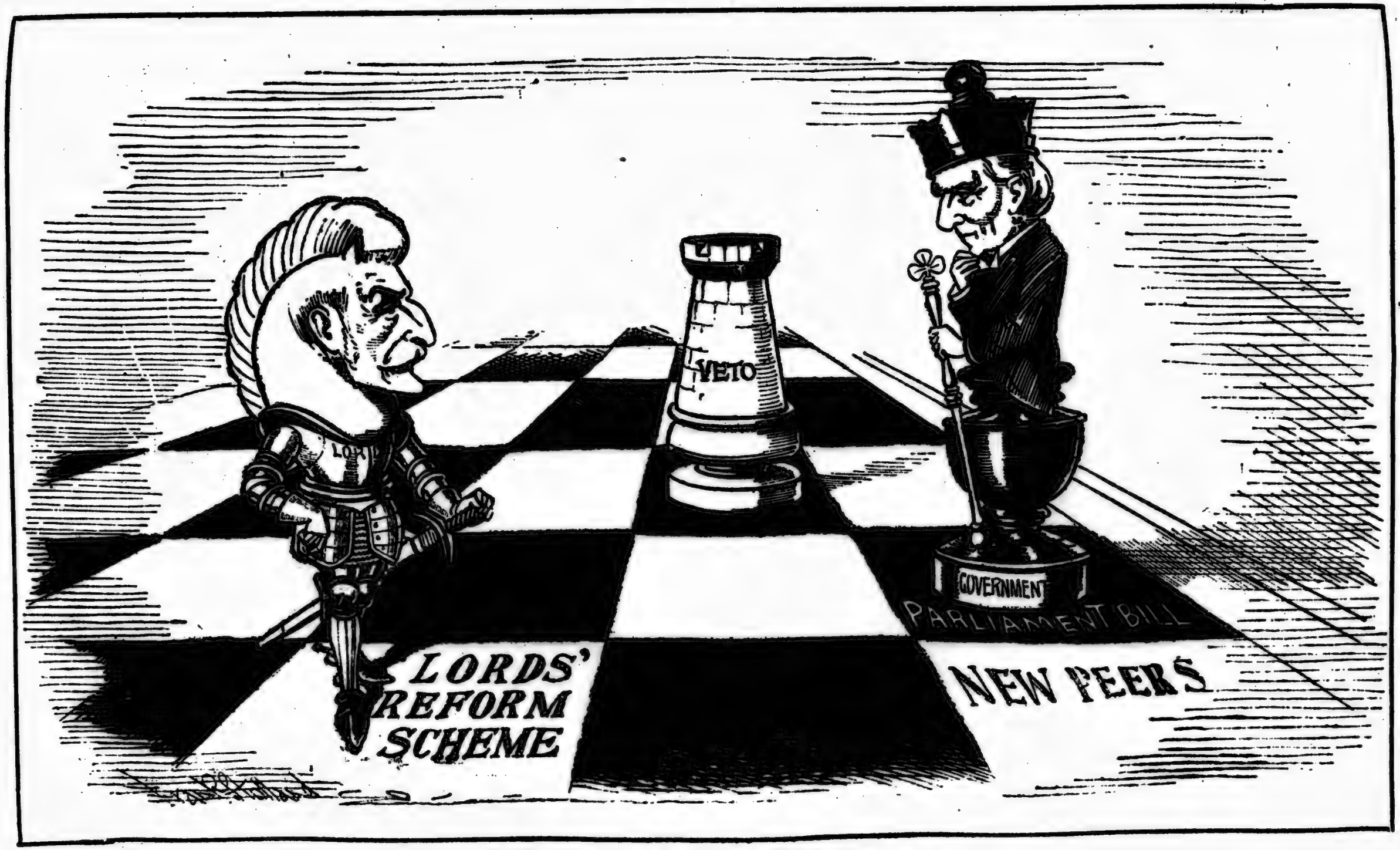
Bull.

Hemmerde, K.C., Temple, London.

Hardly needed your contradiction rumour you had accepted judgeship. Have brilliant political legal career before you, and rumour obviously work of some jealous professional rival.

Bull.

CHECK!



THE WHITE KNIGHT'S LATEST MOVE.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

The latest slump in the Yankee market, caused by the adverse decision of the Inter-State Commerce Commission on Freights, again illustrates the risks run by speculators in that section, and fully justifies the policy I have adopted not to encourage such dealings. The decisions of the Supreme Court in the *Standard Oil Trust* and *Tobacco Trust* suits have, moreover, still to come off. *Home Rails*, on the other hand, have scored further advances, as I said they would, and *Breweries* continue firm; while in *Oil shares*, precisely the shares which I pointed out last week have enjoyed a smart rise. But the boom in Oil shares has yet to come, and that section is somewhat overshadowed by the great rise in the *Rubber share market*. *Kaffirs* and *Rhodesians* are recovering from a reaction, the true inwardness of which is explained further on. Foreigners may be kept back by the Cabinet crisis in Paris, but *Mexican Rails* and *Canadian Pacifics*, my old standing favourites, have further advanced, the latter at 217⅛, ex the dividend of 2½ dol., being still at the top, and *Mexican Railway Second Prefs.* at 96½ full up. With a million of gold coming from Brazil, and the Cape gold going into the Bank, another decline in the Bank rate to 3 per cent., is at hand, which means fresh support to the Stock markets. Even Consols might thereby be benefited, despite the constitutional crisis.

Home Rails Going too Fast and Furious, but Good Investments Still to be Made.

I cannot refrain from dealing again with Home Railway stocks in which I have been so fortunate as to interest my readers at times when they were still able to buy at a very moderate level, so that all those who followed my advice are now standing to make handsome profits. I more particularly recommended these various shares in August, and in October, but I continued until the very last my advice to investors to buy. Finally the market has taken the bit between the teeth; prices have gone ahead somewhat too fast and furious. In fact, quotations have not been maintained quite at the top, although very handsome advances are shown, as will be seen from the following table:—

	Record Highest, 1895-1904.	Price, Aug. 9, 1910.	Price, Oct. 11, 1910.	Present Price.	Dividend per cent. 1910.
Caledonian Def. Ord.	64¼	22⅞	23½	28	¾ (a)
Gt. Cent. Pref. Ord.	95⅝	21⅜	22	28½	nil.
Gt. Eastern	138	63½	66½	73½	3½
Gt. Northern Def. Ord.	71⅞	45	48⅛	52⅛xd.	2½ (c)
Gt. Western	187½	122⅜	122½	128xd.	5
Hull and Barnsley	66⅛	67½	69	70⅞	3½
Lancs. and Yorks.	156	89⅜	89⅜	97	4½
Ldn. and N. Western	209⅜	136	135½	144 xd.	6½
Ldn. and S. Western	98⅜	44½	45½	49 xd.	2½ (c)
Ldn. Brighton Ord.	197	109	109	118	3½
Ldn. Brighton Def. "A"	186½	88½	91	105	4½ (c)
Ldn. Chatham	28⅜	12 7/16	13 1/16	17 7/16	nil.
Ldn. Tilbury	155	122	123	147	6½
Metropolitan	136½	38	38½	45½	1 7/16
Midland Deferred	98½	61	62½	74½	3½
Nth. British Deferred	53½	29½	29½	33½	¾ (b)
North Eastern	185½	130½	129½	132½	6
North Stafford	137	88	86½	98	4½
S.E. Def. (Dover "A")	119½	36⅞	38½	48⅜	1

(a) Estimated for the year. (b) Ditto. (c) For year.

It is noteworthy that traffic increases are also continuing in the new year, and for the week ended February 19th there was again a rise in the receipts by fifty-two railways of the United Kingdom of £58,239, while the aggregate receipts for the past seven weeks of these railways amounted to £13,846,369, or £518,448 increase. There is also the question of the Coronation festivities of the present year to be considered. These will bring grist to the mill, and trade will evidently continue on a large scale, but it seems to me that it is not wise to speculate now on a further rise in Home Rails. And while I still consider Home Rails, and more especially *North-Western, Great Western, Midland Deferred, Brighton "A," Dover "A,"* etc., as suitable for investment, I think it would be wise to buy, preferably on reactions.

More about the Brewery Revival—Prices Still Improving.

In last week's issue I drew attention to the substantial improvement which has taken place in the Brewery section of the Stock Exchange, and more especially in the *Debentures*. I also referred to a very low-priced Brewery share which seemed to be worth picking up, viz., *Colchester Brewery Ordinary* £5 shares at about 12s. 6d. I also mentioned the *Seven per Cent. £5 Preference shares* at 3¼. The effect has been instantaneous, inasmuch as the *Ordinary* are no longer to be bought under ¾, or the *Preference* shares under 3⅞, and looking at the last directors' report and balance sheet, dated September 8th, for the year ended June 30th, 1910, I find that the financial position is a very good one. The profits for that year amounted to £23,060, while there were large cash balances. The *Preference* dividend of 7 per cent. was duly paid, and 1s. per share on the *Ordinary*. If the present attitude of the market for Brewery stocks is correct, it must be assumed that things have now turned the corner, especially as the companies have gained some notable legal victories in the matter of assessments. The following table shows the movements of representative investment stocks:

	Lowest, 1910.	Lowest, 1911.	Present Quotations
Bass Preference	84	93	97½
Cameron 5½ per cent. Debs.	62½	63	67
Colchester Ord.	13/9	10/-	18/-
Cannon "B" Debs.	62½	66½	76½
Charrington Debs.	64⅜	70⅜	75½xd.
Hoare 4 per cent. Debs.	56	66	77
Meux 6 per cent. Debs.	65⅜	68½	76
Smith, Garrett Debs.	63	63	68½
Watney, Combe 1st Pref.	46	55	67
Whitbread Cum. Pref.	64	70	78

The movements are quite striking when we take the advances from the lowest points touched this year and last year. Yet there should be still a good many opportunities for profitable investment, in view of the fact that the Companies are steadily reducing their debenture debts by purchases in the open market.

The Spasm in Kaffirs and Rhodesians—and the Reasons—West Australian Fluctuations—Tin Strong—Murchison Associated as a Little Gamble.

When giants are fighting, it is as well for the general public to stand aside. The spasm in Kaffir and Rhodesian shares was partly caused by a disagreement between two large South African houses, and partly by the failure of an agent de change on the Paris Bourse, who, after piling up a huge "bull" account, committed suicide. But the stocks have already been closed, and prices are hardening. In the meantime, our readers will not do any harm by laying in some of the high-class dividend-paying Kaffir shares, of which I have so frequently given tables in these columns, and in which they can obtain a yield of from 8 to 12 per cent. per annum.

With regard to Rhodesians, which have also been affected, this market is righting itself in consequence of some very favourable advices, for instance from the *Giant Mines*, from the *Globe and Phœnix*, and more especially also from the *Lonely Reef* mine. According to the latest cable, very rich assays are being obtained at the fifth level, driving 500 feet on the reef in both directions, showing rich ore. At the Sabi Gold Mine, which also belongs to the *Rhodesian Gold Mining and Investment Company* the main winze is being continued from the fifth to the sixth level in good ore. *Lonely Reefs* have improved to 3, and *Rhodesian Gold Mines Investment* shares are cheap at 1⅜. From the Hay Mines the news is also favourable, and these shares are cheap at 1⅛, as also shares in the *London and Rhodesian Mining and Land Company*, the parent company, which have improved to 1 13-16. The *Falcon* is another rich mine, the shares in which are rallying from the latest spasm at 2 1/16. The meeting of the *Chartered Company* was very successful, but the favourable statements made did not help the shares, in view of the depressing surroundings. They are now quoted about 33s., and should eventually improve again, as will, naturally, *Rhodesia Exploration*, which are now hardening at 2 21-32. Very favourable news is to hand from the *Belingwe Gold Reefs*, to which I drew attention a few weeks ago, and which have now improved to 8s. 6d. on a cablegram stating that on the Lancaster claims, where the manager has recently arrived, they have struck a new reef two feet wide, assay value 2 ozs. 8 dwts. per ton, which can be traced for a distance of 350 feet. On the Abalowze claims, also belonging to this company, they have during the last 65 feet been sinking in a reef 5ft. thick, of an assay value of 12 dwts. per ton. There seems every prospect, as soon as the market firms up more generally, of these shares further responding to this favourable intelligence. *Jungles* are still marking time, although they are above the lowest, in view of the favourable results from the *Wassau*, and an improvement is more than likely in the near future. *West Australians* have improved, as the latest news from the *Great Boulder Proprietary*, reporting very rich ore at 2,800ft., not far from the boundary of the Ivanhoe, where similar rich discoveries are being made, is very encouraging as far as the Golden Mile is concerned. Thereupon *Great Boulder Props.* are up at 19s. 9d., while *Ivanhoe* remain at 6⅞, the rest of the leading Kalgurli shares being steadier. From the *Bullfinch Proprietary* a cable is to hand advising a clean up of 125 tons for 1,337 oz. of gold.

Those who want a low-priced gamble might buy *Murchison Associated*, now about 1s. 3d. The total issued capital is only £26,000. The company successfully dealt with a Ceylon Rubber Estate at a profit equal to 50 per cent. of its capital, and its holding in *Golden Bullfinch Mines*, from

which good news is to hand, if realised at to-day's market price would bring the *Murchison Associated* at least a further 150 per cent. The company still holds its important interests in Western Australia; two dividends of 10 per cent. having been paid on account of the current year. *Murchison Associated* shares, therefore, offer exceptional chances of doubling one's money.

Oil Shares Still Irregular—Rise in Black Sea Ordinary—A Cheap Roumanian Oil Share.

The tendency in the Oil share market has been somewhat irregular, and the interest has shifted from recent favourites to the Maikop division, and especially to *Black Sea Oilfields Ordinary*, to which I drew attention last week as "an attractive Maikop Oil share," then quoted 19s. They have now advanced to 21s. 3d., and are still cheap at that, while the Prefs. are not to be bought below 1⅞. Another Maikop share which has come into demand—and deservedly so—is *Maikop Valley Prefs.*, at ⅛ to 1-16 discount. This company has been favourably affected by the strike of oil by the *Black Sea Oilfields* in Well 9 on plot 123, as the *Maikop Valley* owns two plots in the immediate neighbourhood, and also two other plots a little farther north, on which the same oil-bed will now doubtless be struck. I am surprised that the shares in the *Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum Company* remain as low as ⅞—1 per £1 share. The company is rapidly opening up its wells, and has in three months produced 5,000 tons of oil, as against 500 tons last year. It will evidently become a large producer. Then there is the *Central Roumanian*, which has three wells nearly completed in the same district. The shares are still obtainable at the very low price of 16s. per £1 share fully paid. *General Oil and Finance* have steadied to par, and it is now anticipated that the first subsidiary company will be launched towards the end of the week. *Shell Transport* are somewhat neglected at 90s., *Spies Petroleum* at 31s. 3d., but *Mexican Eagle* are well held at 32s. 9d.

Rubber Boom, Long Expected, Come at Last—Outlook Still Encouraging.

The boom in rubber shares, long expected, has come at last, fully justifying those operators with the courage of their opinions, who had quietly laid in stock during the depression. Somewhat tardily, it is now recognised that the position of the rubber market is as strong as ever it was, and it has only required the reappearance of American buyers to set prices going again strongly in the upward direction. There is no smoke without fire, and this remark applies to the recent rumours of a valorisation scheme for *Brazilian rubber* by withholding stocks from the market, which have received confirmation from New York. As a result, there has been a considerable broadening of the share market, and while the usual specialities have been in the van of the rise, there has been an enquiry for hitherto dormant shares, including what are called the "heavy" brigade. *Linggis* are up at 54s., *Vallambrosa* at 40s., *Anglo Malay* at 26s., *Consolidated Malay* at 26s. 6d., etc., and *Highlands* at 5 15-16. *Sampang Javas* are still distinctly attractive at about 2s. 9d.—3s.

A very strong demand has developed for *David Young* shares (British Guiana), on the announcement that successful tapping has been in progress. According to advices dated Georgetown, February 6th, 1,200 lbs. of rubber are now in hand, and although tapping was suspended during the holidays, the manager advises that an additional number of men have been dispatched to the concessions, and that the next shipment will be from 3,000 to 4,000 lbs. In view of the very large territories which this company has under rubber, it should eventually obtain a very large output, and the price is expected to go much higher than the present quotation of 2s. 9d. to 3s. Jequie Rubber shares are also beginning to move up, the syndicate shares being quoted 3s. 9d. to 4s., and Jequie West 2s. 3d. My readers will remember that the property is a very large one, situate in the state of Bahia, Brazil. The area under cultivation is about 2,100 acres, with a further area estimated at about 13,000 acres of rubber-bearing forest, suitable for cultivation. Tapping is now being carried on, and should continue until August. The first shipment of 1,870 lbs. has just been announced, and this season's crop is estimated to produce 60,000 to 100,000 lbs. of rubber, and this amount is expected to be at least trebled within the next two or three years.

Bukit Selangor Rubber Estates—An Explanation.

I have received several communications from the secretaries, Messrs. Boustead, of the Bukit Selangor Rubber Estates, Ltd., and in order to elucidate the whole matter, I placed myself in direct communication with them. They pointed out in the first instance that the correspondent who wrote to John Bull from Kuala, Selangor, had made erroneous statements as to the estimates of the production in the prospectus, but these I had already corrected in last week's issue. The estimated yield for 1912 was in the prospectus placed at 13,500 lbs., for 1913 at 33,600 lbs., these being much more conservative figures than those stated by my correspondent. Moreover, since the formation of the company the vendors have given guarantees in regard to the Rubber crops estimated for the years 1912 and 1913, and have lodged with the company substantial cash security for the fulfilment of such guarantees, viz., £4,500 in cash and 15,000 shares. It is, of course, a fact that the original reports were not borne out by a subsequent independent inspection, hence this new arrangement, which guarantees the yields stated in the prospectus to within 90 per cent. and 85 per cent. respectively. It is a matter of surprise to me that my correspondent did not mention this point, and as he is either not fully informed on the position or has placed constructions on his own knowledge which are not justified by the facts, I must leave him to make his defence as best he can. The secretaries maintain that his statements were grossly exaggerated, and were prompted by private reasons of his own. In any case, he will do well in future not to send communications to the Press if he is not fully acquainted with the position.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, John Bull, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, for transacting business, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

Coppers; Railways.—Bamboo.—I am inclined to advise you to cut your loss on the copper shares, as the concern appears to be unable to recover its position. Leopoldina are a fair purchase, as a lock-up, amongst Foreign Rails.

Low-Priced Industrials.—A. B. C. (Tonbridge).—It often proves a case of "cheap and nasty" in such low-priced shares. (1) When a five per cent. cumulative preference share stands at only 2, it shows that there is something "rotten in the state of Denmark." (2) Another highly speculative holding. (3) Ditto, but with greater prospect of improvement. (4) The same applies to the Brewery shares. (5) I do not like them; the way in which things are going is by no means encouraging. (6) The company is doing well, but obviously the shares are highly speculative. I do not know that I can recommend anything better than your selections, always provided that you recognise their highly speculative character.

Harmony Props.—Butler.—The company has considerable possibilities, but do not average again until it is certain that the turn has come. With regard to the further £30, put this into either General Oil and Finance, or Sampang Rubbers.

North Ural Mining.—J. C.—I distinctly prefer Kaffirs and Rhodesians, for obvious reasons—viz., marketability and promising outlook.

Obscure Concern.—Ed. B.—My opinion of the shares is by no means favourable, and I doubt whether you will be able to find a market, as they are not quoted.

Canadian Concern.—E. W. J. H. (Dover).—Practically no information is available with regard to it, and I should be very sorry to advise you, or other small investors, to put any money in.

Three Investments.—Reid.—Furness Preference (A), Wigan (B), and Liverpool (C). As regards the latter question, I believe so, but your broker will be able to tell you more definitely.

Kaffirs, Etc.—Alert.—(1) You are right to be anxious about the heavy fall in Lobitos, but it might be worth while now holding for a recovery. (2, 3, and 4) No option but to hold these low-priced Kaffirs for a recovery when the market turns again. Lambert.—The night is always darkest before the dawn, and I cannot advise you to sacrifice your holdings at the present low levels. The news from the Rand is excellent, and the market may wake up when least expected. It is a question of patience, but it would be playing into the hands of the bears if holders were to throw their stocks overboard at the present juncture.

Beaufort Motors.—Wm. P.—Of course. I do not mind giving you all the information that is available. The present company was formed in May, 1906, to acquire the old undertaking, and the secretary is Mr. A. E. Oakley, 559, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W. The accounts to June, 1907, showed a loss of nearly £17,000, and no later accounts have been issued.

Trunk Firsts.—B. S. J.—Grand Trunk First Preference stock is a fair investment; the dividends are payable in April and October. Of course, you must take the risk of new capital coming in front of this stock, which, however, itself will always remain a First Preference, ranking after the Guaranteed, but taking precedence of the existing Second and Third Preferences, and Ordinaries.

Realisable Investments.—Nemo.—(1) Deal only with members of the Stock Exchange. (2) This has been forwarded. (3) General Oil and Finance is one of the best purchases in the oil share market at present. (5) This can best be obtained in dividend-paying Kaffirs. 6) London City and Midland Bank is a good investment; the yield is about 4½ per cent. per annum.

Six Investments.—P. McG.—None of the securities in question comes within the gilt-edged category, although they are good of their kind. When you expect yields of 5 to 6 per cent. per annum, you must be prepared to take a certain amount of risk.

Foreign Investment.—Shares.—B. J. (Stockport), Constant Reader (Market Place), A P. (Edinburgh), C.C.C.—You must decide yourself how far you will invest in this undertaking. It is, of course, speculative, but there are obviously great possibilities.

Great Central 1894 Preference.—Ewhurst.—The outlook for the Great Central Railway is very encouraging indeed, and there is every prospect of a further substantial rise in quotations. It is not unlikely that the stock in question will enter the dividend list either this or next year, and the same should be held.

Foreign Bonds.—Tyrone.—You have acted very foolishly in sending your bonds to this concern, which appears to be an outside firm of a very dubious type. I doubt whether you will get your money back, and I cannot understand why you have not before this taken more active steps. Better put the matter in the hands of the police.

Dominion Sawmills Debs.—F. H. C.—These are not unpromising, but the fact that they yield about 6½ per cent. per annum at once stamps them as of a speculative character.

Greek 4 per Cent.—Dubious Bill.—Very little interest is taken here in most of these Greek issues, but your bankers probably have some reason for giving the advice they did. The financial position of the country is improving, and thus there is always a prospect of capital appreciation. Upon the whole, it might be worth holding, for the present at any rate.

Babcock and Wilcox.—Archile.—They have now risen to 6, which seems to be high enough for a share of the face value of £1, unless there is some foundation for the rumours of a bonus which are every now and then put into circulation. So far, however, these seem to be as baseless as similar rumours in the case of Coats.

Rubbers.—Clapton.—The recent depression has hit all the low-priced shares very hard, and there is no option but to hold those in question for the present. Do not buy any more until the position of the company has further developed. W. A. D.—Unless you can prove misrepresentation, you cannot get out of payment of the calls, even if you forfeit the shares. There is no market. West Lothian.—Your advisers, whose letter, dated 10th February, you sent me, have proved altogether wrong in saying that they did not think the rubber market would go up. As you will have seen, there has since been an important rise, and they will go higher apparently, as the public are buying. In these circumstances, you would not, I should think, attach much value to their other advice, and I do not see why you should not buy Sampang (Java) rubber shares. Distrustful (Hastings).—When speculating in rubber or other shares, you must not expect it to prove a case of "heads you win, tails I lose." The company in question has not fulfilled expectations, owing to the recent slump, and there is no option now but to hold. In order to ensure success for the movement you propose, you would have to obtain the support of the great body of shareholders.

Oils.—Welsh.—These have gone down along with other oil shares, and the present quotation is 1s. to 1s. 6d. No option but to hold. Dividends cannot be expected yet awhile.

Oil, Rubber, and Tin Shares.—Working Miner.—There is no reason why you should not buy the quantities mentioned, and I would strongly advise you, instead of dividing the money over 1, 2, and 3, to buy thirty of No. 2 (Black Sea Oilfields Ordinary) at about 21s. They are the cheapest and most promising. The rubber shares, No. 4, are all right, and the prospectus of No. 5 will be issued almost immediately. Your stockbroker should give you every assistance and advice.

Outside Brokers.—Chubb.—I do not know the firm in question. If you wish to know whether they are stockbrokers who are members of the Stock Exchange, they certainly are not. It seems to me, however, that you do not want stockbrokers, but partnership agents, for which you should consult the *Times* advertisements. M. A. T. Thorne.—They are obscure outside brokers, and certainly not members of the Stock Exchange. Black Twig.—I strongly advise you not to deal with the Birmingham brokers in question, but to transact your business through a member of the London Stock Exchange. The methods of the people referred to are those of a "bucket-shop," and you would not make any money with them. Enujee.—It is a great pity that you did not enquire before dealing with Donald Douglas, of 36, Victoria Street, in the "Fortnightly Syndicates." As you say, your letter was returned marked "Gone away," and I have received from other correspondents, who have not been paid, notifications to a similar effect. Small Investor.—These are outside brokers, and the talk about safety of capital is all nonsense. If you go on with them, you will lose your money. Kong-Beng.—I congratulate you upon having obtained as much as £40 from the outside brokers in question. It will be excellent news for a good many people, and I will certainly pass on the information you have given me. J. D. (Newport, Fife).—Have nothing to do with the "Complex Stock Deals" of this firm. If you should gain any money you would have to employ a solicitor to make them pay up, as has just happened in the case of some other readers of John Bull. J. J. (Sheffield).—You have lost nothing by not availing yourself of this circular of an outside broker. It is advisable not to go into such speculation, but deal with a member of the Stock Exchange if you want to buy shares. I will send you the name of a respectable firm, if you wish it. Dublin.—I cannot possibly tell you whether the man located in St. Swithin's Lane has migrated to Shaftesbury Avenue. These people usually change their names and habitat when they are driven in a corner. You should employ a solicitor. G. D. N. H.—(1) I am pleased to learn that you received your money from the firm in question. I suppose they have got a certain day on which they remit. (2) Certainly not more reliable. London Scot.—It is not possible to judge the matter until I have the actual documents before me. Please send the same along, and I will then advise you further. R. S.—You should deal with members of the Stock Exchange. Instead of the oil shares mentioned, buy yourself some General Oil and Finance, Black Seas Oilfields Ordinary, at 21s., Anglo-Maikops, and Anglo-Roumanians. E. W. L.—(1) Dealing on such a system, you must quite understand that it is not at all certain that you will make money. You can just as easily lose it. (2) I send you the name of a foreign banker in London, who deals in Premium Bonds.

Home Rails.—W. E. F. (Sutton).—The rise in Home Rails has now attained very large dimensions, and it would be preferable to await a reaction. As regards American Rails, you know, of course, that it is easy to lose as well as win in them. I have had no complaints about the outside brokers mentioned. O. B. O.—I deal again with Home Rails in a special article this week, and this will give you all the information you seek. It would be preferable to buy direct through a broker.

West African Oil and Motor Shares.—S. N. VII. K.—(1) No option but to hold Fanti Mines. Just now West Africans are unduly depressed. (2) The oil shares are at present very much depreciated. You have no option but to hold. (3) This cab company has not yet got a Stock Exchange quotation, and there is very little market. I would advise you not to go further into it. It is preferable to invest in sounder stocks than in shares which are sometimes unsaleable.

Premium Bonds.—E. D. D. (Bloemfontein).—Buying from this foreign firm, you will be charged a much higher price than market quotation, and if you wish to purchase any more, you should avail yourself of the foreign bankers in London whose names I send you. Rosebank.—These Continental firms charge considerably above current quotations. I should advise you to deal with a reliable firm of foreign bankers in London, making a speciality of such bonds. Rendrag.—As you cannot get the desired information from the various newspapers for which you have subscribed, I send you the name of a firm of foreign bankers in London, making a speciality of Premium Bonds, who will be able to fully inform you. Moyra.—No, you should not deal with this foreign firm, which is known to charge higher than market prices. I send you the name of a firm upon whom you can rely.

Hamburg State Lottery.—J. J. (Tongofail).—This is conducted under official supervision, and is respectable enough, but I cannot tell you anything about the standing of the intermediaries, nor can I assist you any further in the matter, as lotteries are illegal in this country.

West Africans.—W. G.—I do not care much for either of these concerns, and instead of averaging them you would do far better to go into sound Kaffirs or Rhodesians at the reduced level.

Oil and Tin Shares.—C. T. K.—You cannot do better than lay out the money in question in Black Sea Oilfields Ordinary, now about 21s., and Balcoho Tin Mines, the prospectus of which will be out almost immediately. What you require has been forwarded.

Share Transfers.—D. D.—There is always a short delay in obtaining the transfers, and you need not trouble yourself about this in the present case. As regards the tin mine, I do not see how you can apply for less than 5 or 10 shares.

Home Rails and Tin Mines.—G. H. B.—(1) It would be a pity to split up the money too much. Moreover, Brighton "A" and Dover "A" have advanced so strongly that it is hardly wise to follow the rise now, and you might just as well put the money into the tin mines. (2) Highly speculative. (3) You should deal through a member of the Stock Exchange. (4) All right for small amounts. I will see that you receive a prospectus as soon as issued.

South Africans, Etc.—Devil.—Hold both Transvaal Developments (1) and Tanganyikas (2), but do not average in these, at any rate until the market has definitely taken a turn for the better. Rather spread the risk by buying other leading Kaffirs and Rhodesians, which are now at a very low level. As regards Vallambrosas (3), bear covering and the sentiment of the general rubber revival largely account for the rise.

London Electrobus.—Scroggins.—This concern is being wound up, the liquidator being Mr. T. J. Garlick, 15, George Street, Mansion House, London, E.C., to whom you should apply for information. I am afraid you will get very little back.

Provincial Brokers.—Sweet Pea.—I cannot tell you anything about Provincial stockbrokers, and my rule is to advise dealings only with members of the London Stock Exchange.

Trust.—J. N. H.—I do not like this kind of concern, and if you desire to go into this class of investment you would be better advised to deal direct with one of the leading building societies.

Birmingham Society.—Lex.—It is more than usually difficult to ascertain the position of provincial building societies. Personally, I do not care for such investments, especially in view of recent land legislation, and you had better put your money into sound securities.

Giant Extension.—Bloem.—The Giant Extension was only formed in September last, so that it has not had much time to get to work yet. The authorised capital is £100, in £1 shares, and you had better apply to the secretary, 5, Moorgate Street, E.C., for further information. The shares are not marketable at present.

Pacifics.—Nova Scotia.—(1) He who buys American Rails, including such stocks as Union and Southern Pacifics, at the present juncture, gives hostages to fortune. (2 and 3) I prefer dealing with London firms, and have sent you the address of a suitable house.

Southern San Paulos.—Lanc.—You should be more careful another time. I do not think that you can withdraw, while even if you forfeited your deposit, you could still be compelled to pay up the calls. The issue did not go well, and the stock is quoted at 3 discount, but it might come right in time.

Investment.—Farmer.—The best thing is to get the bond into your own hands at once. The lawyer must, of course, give it up on your demand, and also furnish a full statement of accounts. What you require has been forwarded in your envelope.

Loan on Property.—Magnum in Parvo.—It is very difficult to obtain such loans at present, owing to the effects of recent land legislation. Your best plan would be to apply to one of the leading London building societies, or to an insurance company. In the last resort, you could advertise in the daily press.

Various Investments.—Boaz.—(1) I prefer the leading institutions. (2) Westralian 3½ per Cent. and Newfoundland 3½ per Cent.; also see the table of Redeemable stocks in last week's issue. (3) Japanese 4 per Cent. and Argentine 4 per Cent. Recission bonds. (4) Safe enough, but not gilt-edged; easily realisable. (5) As a rule, yes, but there are, of course, exceptions. (6) Members of the Stock Exchange.

Rubbers and Oils.—Master Mariner.—I do not care much for any of the shares in question, and instead of buying more of the same to average, you might go into, for instance, General Oil and Finance, Black Sea Oilfields, and Sampang Rubbers. S. R.—I think best of the following amongst your holdings:—Madagascar Prefs., General Oil and Finance, London Ventures. I do not care for No. 3, as their entourage is not such as to encourage purchases. Standard Oil of Canada (4) appears to be making fair progress, but very little information is available as regards No. 7. The Wesst Rand Consols should be held now for an improvement, along with other Kaffirs. Alpha.—Yes, as regards Sampang Javas; no, regarding the oils. General Oil and Finance and Black Sea Oilfields Ordinary would be much preferable.

Foreign Lotteries.—G. H. (Reading).—I really cannot tell you anything about the Hungarian Lottery further than that, in itself, it is conducted under respectable auspices, but whether the intermediaries, whose letter you sent, are reliable, I really cannot say.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 93, Long Acre, W.C.

Benefit and Sickness Company.—Anxious (Horsham).—It is exceedingly difficult to obtain any particulars about concerns located so far in the country as that about which you require information, the more so as it seems to be quite a small affair. You ought to make your enquiries in Lancashire.

Status of Company.—C. B. (Woolston).—It is a sound office. E. W. G. (Malvern).—It is strange that the society to which you refer should, in your opinion, be "practically unknown among insurance men." It is in the front rank of insurance offices. G. W. H. (Twickenham).—We should prefer another selection

Endowment Policy.—Superfine (Derby).—The Sun Life of Canada.

Life and Health Association.—Anxious (Stowbridge).—The answer is in the negative.

Liverpool Victoria Insurance Corporation.—Waiting to See (Stirling).—Yes, we think so.

Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—W. L. (London).—We know of no good reason why you should not do so.

Seven Insurance Companies.—Camera (Coventry).—Of the various companies you name, we should prefer No. 2.

Star of Hope Insurance Co.—Workman (Nottingham).—The answer is in the negative.

Empire Guarantee and Insurance Co.—Northman (Thurso).—They are not shares that we should advise you to purchase if you were thinking of buying some, but as you have them, you must, of course, pay the call if you continue to hold them.

Insurance Scheme.—A. T. (Nottingham).—We know of no legal objection to your carrying out the scheme you describe, nor would the Government require you to make a deposit, but, of course, you would be responsible for any statements you made in connection with it, and it is quite conceivable that that responsibility might prove a heavy one.

Legal and General Assurance Society.—G. R. J. R. (Tain).—The answer to both your questions is in the negative.

We have to thank the Secretary of the Scottish Widows' Fund, for a very daintily got-up calendar and diary.

We have received from the Provident Association of Warehousemen, Travellers, and Clerks a copy of their annual report and balance sheet to end of December last. We congratulate the Association upon the steady progress shown by the accounts.

A REMINISCENCE OF

SHERLOCK HOLMES

"THE ADVENTURE OF THE RED CIRCLE"

By ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

PEOPLE imagine that the mysteries of London, the shadows of a great city which are sometimes never lifted, only happen in the East-end and in the dubious districts of Soho. The recent Houndsditch tragedy goes to prove this. But without offering any comment, it is worth remembering that the characters who played out this strangely sinister drama in the East-end frequented every part of London.

The shadows of a great city brood over every one of its streets. Its tragedies happen in every district. The man who goes out of the house next door, or sits by your side on train or 'bus, or eats opposite to you in a restaurant, may be playing a part in a drama that would hold a world spell-bound. The quietest backwater of a street in the most respectable part of London may become, at a moment's notice, a place of ill repute, focussing the attention of a startled world.

It is this sense of the mystery, of the brooding shadow ever falling on well-known thoroughfares that haunts the story of "The Adventure of the Red Circle" in the Strand Magazine for March. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle knows his London, knows its veiled mysteries and his stories are life episodes—the veil is plucked aside.

"I caught a glimpse of a dark beautiful, horrified face."

Sherlock Holmes lives in Baker Street—one of the most conservative of London thoroughfares—and to his chambers the troubled people who are suddenly cast to play a part in London mysteries come to consult him for help and guidance.

In the mystery of the "Adventure of the Red Circle," the great detective is confronted with one of the knotty tangles torn from London's ever weaving loom of mystery—a problem after his own heart. His mind is asked to throw light on a corner of London darkened by the shadow of crime.

The scene of this moving life drama is Bloomsbury—the place of many tragedies discovered and undiscovered. The strange story is played out in a London street not far from the British Museum. It begins with a commonplace set of incidents told by an irritated London landlady, and from the commonplace, the reader is taken step by step into a haunted district glowering with tragic possibilities. The mystery grows deeper as each link in the chain of inconsequent incidents is forged. Conan Doyle draws the veil from the commonplace life around us and shows us a dark inner world of strange actions, through which the striking

"They bundled him into a cab that was beside the kerb."

figure of the great detective walks, bringing sweet reason and sanity to lighten the shadowland of crime.

Every man and woman who lives in the great mysterious city of London will read this strange story in the March Strand Magazine and will not drop without the fascinations of its charm until Sherlock Holmes has said the last word. "The Adventure of the Red Circle" is a moving real life drama which grips the heart and mind of every reader. Sherlock Holmes, the quiet, lonely, thoughtful figure, pondering over the mystery, becomes a living force. He seems to move amongst us personally in the grim streets of Bloomsbury, searching for the key to the heart of the mystery. He is more than a hero of fiction—he represents the greatest London ideal, a vigilant, unwavering force on the side of righteousness, treading swiftly and relentlessly on the heels of crime. Reading this story, it ceases to be a work of fiction. Bloomsbury, a tragic background, is peopled with living human problems about which the lucid, luminous mind of Sherlock Holmes flashes like a searchlight until it strikes the true solution.

Indeed, "The Adventure of the Red Circle" shows Sherlock Holmes at his best. He comes nearer to being a creation of life itself than to being merely a splendid hero of fiction. Conan Doyle makes London live, fills its known streets with real people, and Sherlock Holmes becomes a real man, pursuing a real wrong-doer and unmasking him in his very real villainies. It is a story to read. It is a story of London and London life which everyone *is* reading. It is a story of which people will be talking. It is a chapter in the drama of life with which you should be familiar. It appears in the Strand Magazine for March, now on sale at all bookstalls and newsagents. Secure your copy to-day.

DR. COOK TELLS THE TRUTH.—X.

THE REAL STORY OF HIS NORTH POLE EXPEDITION.

TOLD BY HIMSELF.

(Exclusive for Great Britain to JOHN BULL.)

We commenced the publication of Dr. Cook's exciting narrative in our issue dated Dec. 31, and have, week by week, given his story of how he attained his ambition—the discovery of the Pole. This account of his almost superhuman struggles against the mighty forces of Nature we have printed in his own graphic language. His narrative does not appeal to the geographer alone; his earnest plea is made to mankind at large—not for the laurels to which the undisputed conqueror of the World of Ice is legitimately entitled—but for the verdict that, whether he achieved his life's object or no, he retains his right to the name of an honest man.

After giving Dr. Cook's stirring description of his ecstasy when, convinced by natural phenomena, he arrived at the firm belief that he had at length reached his goal; the reaction he experienced when retracing his steps; his account of the soul-destroying monotony of the Polar night, during which he hibernated with his Eskimos; the visions which his surroundings conjured up; his arrival, completely exhausted, at Annoatok and meeting with Mr. Harry Whitney, our last issue gives his reasons for leaving with Mr. Whitney his instruments, etc., when starting for home.

Mr. Whitney's plans were changed. His ship, the *Erik*, not having arrived when Peary returned, Whitney arranged with Peary to come back to civilisation on the latter's ship, the *Roosevelt*. As I learned afterwards, when the *Roosevelt* arrived, Mr. Whitney took from one of my packing boxes my instruments and placed them in his trunk. He was, however, prohibited from carrying my things, and all my belongings were consequently left at the mercy of the weather and the natives in far-off Greenland. Of course I have had no means of hearing about them since, so that I do not know what has become of them.

No Expectation of World-Wide Excitement.

In the wildest flights of my imagination I never dreamed of any world-wide interest in the Pole. Again I desire to emphasise the fact that every movement I have made disproves the allegation that I planned to perpetrate a gigantic fraud upon the world. Men had been seeking the North Pole for years, and at no time had any of these many explorers aroused any general interest in his expedition or the results.

I wish to emphasise again and again that I regarded my entire experience as something purely personal. I supposed that the newspapers would announce my return, and that there would be a three days' breath of attention, and that that would be all. So far as I was personally concerned, my chief thought was one of gratification at having satisfied myself, and an intense longing for home.

It never occurred to me that there would be an immediate demand for the rough notes I had made on my journey. I knew that from time immemorial the narratives of explorers usually have been accepted immediately and that supplementary scientific data, when offered, came later.

Sometime during the middle of April, I left Etah, for Upernivik, accompanied by Koo-loo-ting-wah. We had one sledge and supplies enough to last a month, counting on getting some game en route.

We reached Wolstenholm Sound a week later, and there I secured three additional sledges and forty dogs. We had amplified our food supply with game, as expected.

Here I got three more Eskimos, An-good-lu, I-o-ko-ti and My-ah. They accompanied me south. The journey across Melville Bay was rapid. This we made in three-and-a-half days. In this again fortune singularly favoured me. The speed was unprecedented, as all previous journeys had taken weeks. At Tassnasak I met Charles Dahl, a congenial Danish official, with whom I stayed a week. He spoke only Danish, which I did not understand. Despite the fact that our language was unintelligible, we talked until two or three o'clock in the morning, somehow conveying our thoughts to one another, and when he realised what I told him he took my hand.

Upernivik is one of the largest Danish settlements in Greenland and one of the most important trading ports. It is a small town with a population of about 300 Eskimos, who live in box-shaped huts of turf. The town affords residence for about six Danish officials, who live with their families in comfortable houses.

When I Reached Upernivik.

I reached there early one morning, about May 20th, 1909, and went at once to the house of Governor Kraul. The governor himself, a tall, bald-headed, dignified man, a bachelor, about fifty years of age, of genial manner and considerable literary and scientific attainments, answered my knock on the door. He admitted me hospitably, and then looked over me from head to foot.

I was a hard-looking visitor. I wore an old sealskin coat, worn bearskin trousers, stockings of hareskin and seal boots. I was reasonably dirty. My face was haggard and bronzed, my uncut hair long and straggling. However, I felt reassured after the bath and clean underclothing secured a week before at Tassnasak. Later these clothes were replaced by new garments given me by Governor Kraul, some of which I wore on my trip to Copenhagen. My appearance was such that I was not surprised by the Governor's first question, asked very seriously: "Have you any lice on you?"

Some years before, he had entertained some Arctic pilgrims and a peculiar breed of lice remained to plague the village for a long time. I convinced him that, in spite of my unprepossessing appearance, he was safe in sheltering me, and he showed me to a bedroom.

At his house I had all the luxuries of a refined home, with a large library at my disposal. I had also a large, comfortable, feather bed with clean sheets. I slept for hours every day, devoting about four or five hours to my work on my notes.

Mixed Reception of my Claim.

At breakfast I told Governor Kraul, briefly, of my journey, and although, he was polite and pleasant, I could see that he was sceptical as to my having reached the Pole. I remained with him a month, using his pens and paper to put the finishing touches on my narrative—on which I had done some work at Cape Sparbo. My notes and papers were scattered about and Governor Kraul read them, and as he read them his doubts were dispelled and he waxed enthusiastic. During my stay here I witnessed the total eclipse of the sun, in June, 1909.

About June 20th, the ship *Godhaab* arrived from South Greenland with some scientists aboard, among them Steensberg and Dr. Krabbe. When told of my claim by Governor Kraul they showed a reserved feeling of doubt.

In a few days the *Godhaab* sailed from Upernivik to Umanak, and I took passage on her. Captain Scorby quietly and persistently questioned me as to the details of my trip. Apparently, he became convinced that I was stating facts, for when we arrived at Umanak, the social metropolis of North Greenland, the people enthusiastically received me, having been informed of my feat by the captain.

At the "King's Guest House" in Eggedesminde, the only hotel in Greenland, I met Dr. Norman-Hansen, a scientist, with whom I talked. He asked about many things and a fraternal confidence was soon established. I told him that I had been to the Pole and he believed me.

Later, the *Godhaab*, which took the missionary expedition to the northernmost Eskimo settlement at North Star Bay (where a new mission station was established) and then returned, arrived from Cape York with Knud Rassmussen and other Danes aboard. They had a story that my two Eskimos had said I had taken them to the "Big Nail."

The first banquet in my honour followed. At the table were about twenty people. Rassmussen, among others, spoke. In an excited talk in Danish, mixed with English and German, he foretold the return of Mr. Peary and prophesied discord. This made little impression at the time, and was recalled only by later events.

(To be continued)

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A Talk to Cyclists

What new thing are we going to do in Cycling this year? Some are talking of Motor Cycles, but their upkeep is Expensive, and they do not give the Exercise that is so necessary to keep one "Fit." Let me make a suggestion to those tens of thousands of Cyclists who have derived pleasure from riding on a £5 to £10 Bicycle. If they would know the real Joy of this great Sport, they should buy a Sunbeam —the Bicycle that is **MILES AN HOUR FASTER.**

The Driving Bearings of this Machine are quite free from Friction, and indeed the whole Cycle is built in workshops which produce no second or third grade work. Comfort and Ease of Running, instead of cheapness, are the ideals aimed at in its manufacture.

And as this Cycle is unlike any other in the way it is made, so it is unlike any other in the way it is designed. It literally glistens with Improvements.

On the new "All Black" Sunbeam there are nearly a dozen separate Inventions, each protected by Royal Letters Patent. They all increase either the speed or comfort of the rider.

For example, there are no longer any plated parts left to waste time over polishing, the bright fittings are made of Aluminium Silver Alloy that does not rust or tarnish. Then there is the Little Oil Bath Gear Case—that unique piece of work, of which such unfortunate imitations are sometimes offered to the unwary. The Sunbeam's Gear Case makes the driving bearings of this "All Black" Model entirely Weatherproof, and thanks to the Little Oil Bath inside, these vital parts run **FREE FROM FRICTION IN A FILM OF OIL.** They are always clean, they are always oiled.

No wonder the Sunbeam runs so much easier, is cleaned in a few minutes, and if properly cared for **LASTS A LIFETIME.**

And there are no upkeep Expenses.—A Cyclist wrote the makers the other day to say that he had ridden his Sunbeam 46,000 miles **WITHOUT HAVING TO SPEND A SINGLE PENNY ON REPAIRS.** Think what such a distance would cost you on a Motor Bike.

The new 1911 Sunbeam List with descriptions of the various Patents, and a coloured picture of the new "All Black" Sunbeam is sent free on application to:—J. MARSTON, LTD., 21, Sunbeamland, Wolverhampton.

LONDON SHOWROOMS:—158, Sloane Street (by Sloane Sq.), S.W. Cecil House, 57a, Holborn Viaduct, E.C.
MANCHESTER SHOWROOMS:— 131, Deansgate. LIVERPOOL SHOWROOMS:— 68, Renshaw Street.

Harrods

Call attention to the latest production of their master tailor,

THE "YELTRA"

A triple yarn-proof Weather-coat for Town and Country use—Undoubtedly the best coat of the Season.

The "Yeltra" Weather Coat.

Its utility will appeal strongly to Sportsmen, Motorists, and others, being suitable for town and country alike.

It gives the required comfort demanded by the outdoor man, yet has a smart appearance that makes it correct for Town wear.

The material is "proofed" before wearing, rendering it pliable, comfortable and very strong, self-ventilating and permanently weather-proof.

With the "Yeltra" there is an entire absence of stiffness. It is lined with a wool-combine which is treated in the same way as the cloth.

The pivot-cut sleeves give absolute freedom. Cuffs are fitted with patent fastener and storm strap. Skirt escapes below knees and is cut very full.

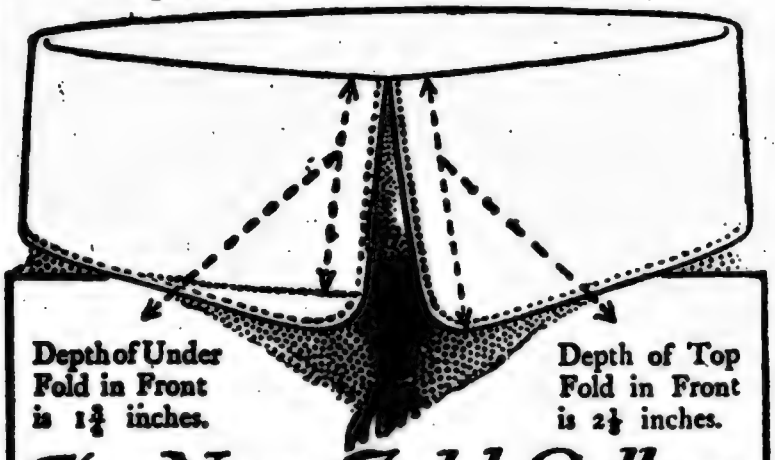
Vertical pockets are cut to allow of undercoat pockets being easily reached

In all New Drab and Fawn Shades:

39/6, 49/6, 59/6.

HARRODS Ltd., London, S.W.
Richard Burbidge, Managing Director.

Depth of Both Folds at Back is 1¾ inches.



Depth of Under Fold in Front is 1¾ inches.

Depth of Top Fold in Front is 2½ inches.

The New Fold Collar

Summit 45 is a shallow collar, with a deep appearance. The close straight set to the front accentuates this, and gives to this shape a smart dressy effect. There is plenty of room for a neatly tied cravat. Quarter-sizes—four sizes to the inch from 14 to 18. 'Summit' 45 is on show at our Four shops. ¶ A sample collar with the booklet will be sent post free for 6½d.

'Summit' collars made in Ireland. **6 *for* 3/-**

AUSTIN REED LTD.

Four Shops:
13 Fenchurch Street 5 St. Mary Axe
157a Cheapside E.C. & 113 Regent St. W.

AN OLD SONG.

(The following song was published in 1792. Some of its sentiments sound a little out of date to-day, but it illustrates the fact that in politics, as in everything else, there is nothing new under the sun.)

HONEST JOHN BULL AND HIS MOTHER.

Here's a health to old honest John Bull,
When he's gone we shan't find such another;
With hearts, and with glasses, brim full,
Here's a health to Britannia, his mother.
For she gave him a good education,
Bid him keep to his Church and his King,
Be loyal and true to the nation,
And then to be merry, and sing—
Fol de rol, fol de rol, fol de rol, lay.

For John is a good-natured fellow,
Industrious, honest, and brave,
Not afraid of his betters when mellow,
For betters he knows he must have.
There must be fine lords and fine ladies,
There must be some little, some great,
Their wealth the support of our trade is,
Our trade the support of their State.
Fol de rol, fol de rol, fol de rol, lay.

Some were born for the Court and the City;
And some for the Village and Cot;
For 'twould be a dolorous ditty
Were we all born equal in lot.
If our ships had no pilots to steer,
What would become of poor Jack on the shrouds?
And our troops, no commanders to fear,
Would soon be armed robbers in crowds.
Fol de rol, fol de rol, fol de rol, lay.

The plough and the loom would stand still
Were we made gentlemen all,
All clodhoppers, who would then fill
The Parliament, Pulpit and Hall?
"Rights of Man" make a very fine sound,
Equal riches a plausible tale,
Whose labours would then till the ground?
All would drink, but who'd brew the best ale?
Fol de rol, fol de rol, fol de rol, lay.

Half naked and starved in the streets,
Were we wandering about sans culottes;
Would "Liberty" find us in meat
Or "Equality" lengthen our coats?
That knaves are for lev'ling, no wonder,
You may easily guess at their views;
Pray who'd get the most by the plunder?
Why they that have nothing to lose.
Fol de rol, fol de rol, fol de rol, lay.

Then away with such nonsense and stuff,
Full of treason, confusion, and blood,
Ev'ry Briton has freedom enough
To be happy as long as he's good.
To be ruled by a merciful King,
To be governed by jury and laws;
Then let us be merry and sing,
This! this is true Liberty's cause.
Fol de rol, fol de rol, fol de rol, lay.

POINTED PARAGRAPH.

TROUBLE WITH THE HAREM.

(Some bold people, male and female, praise the Turkish trousers for ladies—others are frankly horrified by them. A heading in a daily paper says, "Divided Views on Harem Skirt.")

London and Paris cannot yet agree,
By some the thing is praised, by some derided;
Opinions differ, it is plain to see,
In fact, the views are, like the skirt, divided.

Send for a Baby-Barrel

of Marston's Burton Ale and experience the luxury and satisfaction of a glass of Marston's drawn direct from the wood. It is good, and will do you good, for the malt from which it is made is a food—the hops a tonic — the water world famous.

SEND TO-DAY.

Marston's Burton Ale, specially brewed for family use, can be had in small casks or in bottle as preferred. Write us direct for booklet, giving full particulars of our productions and prices, and we will send you per return name and address of our nearest agent.

A Baby-Barrel of MARSTON'S BURTON ALE

As supplied to the House of Lords.

MARSTON, THOMPSON & EVERSHED, Ltd.,
Burton-on-Trent, Dept. 2,
London Stores: 77-85, Pancras Road, N.W.

MODERN BUSINESS Demands Modern Equipment, the
"VERONIQUE" Loose Leaf Ledger

at once is up-to-date, effective and a necessary part of Office Equipment. Anyway, so say the leading Business Houses, who have installed the "Veronique" entirely.

It is not clumsy or cumbersome, but a useful, always satisfactory business aid. Opens absolutely flat. A Bramah lock secures it, and no slotted leaves to trouble you. Write for booklet to Edgar and Co., Ltd. (Dept. J.B.), 34 and 34a, Moorfields, E.C.

The "Veronique" is manufactured for the Patentees by Messrs. Thos de La Rue and Co., Ltd., London.

AN ORIGINAL BLEND
of High-class Turkish Tobaccos

(HAND-MADE)

MATINEE CIGARETTES

Packet of 25 (Size 3) **1/6** Also Sizes 1 & 2

Of all High-class Tobacconists

BE SURE TO LOOK AT THE OUTSIDE BACK COVER.

The Milestone on the Highway to Success.

£466,220

Nearly Half-a-Million of Money.

HAS BEEN PAID AWAY TO CLIENTS

BY THE

National Share Exchange

It will be remembered that at the close of last year we promised the readers of "John Bull" that the same methods which had won such singularly brilliant successes for our clients in 1910 would be continued in 1911.

Only two months have elapsed since we forshadowed our determination to eclipse our own unapproachable record as Money-Makers for our numerous clients.

THE PHENOMENAL SUCCESS OF OUR FORECASTS THIS YEAR DEMONSTRATED BY OUR NEVER ONCE HAVING FAILED TO — ADVISE THE RIGHT STOCK AT THE RIGHT MOMENT. —

This is not magic, nor what is called popularly "Luck." It is the logical outcome of the ripe experience of a lifetime, coupled with authoritative inside information and sleepless vigilance directed and concentrated into the right channels.

That is the SECRET of OUR CLIENTS' SUCCESS,
of the many new clients who have reaped the reward of their enterprise in following our advice, many were men and women without previous experience of stocks and shares. Some started with but a very few pounds. To-day these new clients are well on the road to prosperity.

We have determined to make our Payments up to a Million—Here is the Tide of Golden Opportunity for You.

It is open for you to share the good fortune of those who are profiting by our judgment and counsel. Their cheques are the most eloquent testimony that could possibly be offered. We cordially invite you to inspect these cheques. They speak volumes for the unique system by which money is doubled and trebled in a single transaction, and the keynote of which is—liability strictly limited, profits unlimited, cash settlements daily. We win our clients by the profits they make. We keep them by the pains we take. Our clients' interests are our own.

TAKE THE FIRST STEP FREE OF ALL COST TO YOU.

This COUPON entitles YOU to Learn how £6 may produce £60.

To the Secretary, The National Share Exchange,
GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Please forward me gratis and post free your booklet, "The Modern System of Money-Making," and other literature which is a clear explanation of the methods which have enabled you to pay away nearly HALF-A-MILLION POUNDS TO CLIENTS.

J.B. 4/3/11

NAME.....
(State Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title).

ADDRESS IN FULL.....

DATE..... .....
(Please write distinctly).

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"JOHN BULL'S" MONTHLY CALENDAR.

MARCH.

1. W.—Ash Wednesday. *St. David's Day*, so-called in honour of the Welsh tutelar saint, Mr. David Lloyd George. Property owners sprinkle ashes on their heads. Compatriots and partisans of Mr. Lloyd George rejoice and are exceeding glad.—*Stuffy.*
2. Th.—John Bull published. People who declare they never read it, hurry away to a quiet corner with their weekly copy.—*Bright.*
3. F.—Members of Parliament begin to ask," Has anybody here seen Ginnell ? "—*Depressing.*
4. S.—Article in the *Daily Mail* on Standard Bread.—*Heavy.*
5. *S.—1st Sunday in Lent.* Fasting begins—and ends. Potato growers and starch manufacturers hold great meeting of protest in Hyde Park. Sundry babies christened Semolina.—*Wet.*
6. M.—Article in *Daily Mail* on Standard Bread.—*Dry.*
7. Tu.—*Mrs. Bull* published. *St. Perpetua's Day*, so-called in honour of *Mrs. Bull*, who is a perpetual joy.—*Bright.*
8. —W.—*Ember Day.*—Much Standard Bread burnt in the baking.—*Warm.*
9. Th.—John Bull published. Bart Kennedy born. Bart Kennedy born, 1861. Kennedy, Bart, born, 1861. Bart.—*Rough.*
10. F.—*Ember Day.* A. in *Daily Mail* on S.B.—*Very close.*
11. S.—*Ember Day.* Swift MacNeill, K.C., M.P., born, 1849. Highly successful birthday celebrations in South Donegal. Numerous casualties.—*Very warm.*
12. *S.—2nd Sunday in Lent.* St. Gregory's Day. Corner in Gregory's powder in consequence of demand for Standard Bread.—*Muggy.*
13. M.—Tame physicians of the *Daily Mail* busy writing further articles on Standard Bread.—*Dull.*
14. Tu.—*Mrs. Bull* published. Mrs. Grundy has " that tired feeling." A. on S.B. pub'd in *Daily Mail.—Bright.*
15. W.—Carlyon Bellairs born, 1871. Close time for Wild Birds begins. East-end bird snarers overhaul their tackle.—*Cold.*
16. —Th.—John Bull published. A. on S.B. pub'd in *Daily Mail.—Frost.*
17. F.—*St. Patrick's Day.* Bank Holiday in Ireland. Shamrock and Champagne. Certain Irish M.P.'s learn what Home Rule means when reaching home at night. Robert Blatchford born, 1851. Big Navy party and Germanophobes send birthday congratulations.—*Dry to Wet.*
18. S.—A. on S.B. pub'd in *Daily Mail.* Irish members recovering from St. Patrick's Day.—*Very dry.*
19. *S.—3rd Sunday in Lent.—Depressing.*
20. M.—Anti-Corn Law League founded, 1839. Day of mourning for " whole-hoggers."—*Cloudy.*
21. Tu.—*Mrs. Bull* published. Mrs. Grundy has a stroke. *St. Benedict's Day*, patron saint of married men. Many married men think he must have retired from business.—*Breezy.*
22. W.—A. on S.B. pub'd in *Daily Mail.* Earl de la Warr born, 1869. Bexhill Fire Brigade turns out to extinguish fire at Kursaal. False alarm. All curse. (The Earl's birthday joke).—*Dry and cold; later, mild—and bitter.*
23. Th.—John Bull published. Mr. Ginnell catches the Speaker's eye.—*Breezy.*
24. F.—*Daily Mail* publishes an article on Standard Butter.—*Greasy under foot.*
25. S.—*Lady Day.* Quarter Day. Moon rises at 4.30 a.m. Many householders see it rise.—*Mist.*
26. *S.—4th Sunday in Lent.—Dull.*
27. M.—Cambridge Lent Term ends. Much dunning by Cambridge tradesmen. Many Cambridge tradesmen done. *Daily Mail* publishes an article on Standard Cheese.—*Mild.*
28. Tu.—*Mrs. Bull* published. Mrs. Grundy has a relapse.—*Sharp.*
29. W.—*Daily Mail* offers prize of £5,000 for best cauliflower.—*Fresh.*
30. Th.—John Bull published. The Speaker catches Mr. Ginnell's eye.—*Stormy.*
31. F.—Slave Trade abolished, 1806. Private M.P.'s begin to agitate for freedom.

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Description: The cabinet measures 12 in. square by 6 in. deep, and is made of sound oak, highly polished and ornamented. It is fitted with a tastefully decorated flower horn, 16 in. across the bell; a motor that can be wound up whilst running; a turntable about 9 in. diameter, nickel-plated and polished; a sound-box of the latest design with an india-rubber ring to prevent jarring; and is guaranteed for two years.

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BE SURE TO LOOK AT THE OUTSIDE BACK COVER.

Our Artificial World.

The world is full of shams, some real, some assumed. Everything nowadays is artificial, made up to look what it is not. Science and the educated ingenuity of the man and woman of to-day have rendered this deception a most wonderful thing. No matter what industry you mention, you are sure to find that the "fakers" have been at it, whether it be jewellery, furs, clothes, furniture or food. Witness the marvellous imitation in the furriers' trade, so exact that even experts are deceived. The same thing occurs with jewellery and affects even the toys of us "grown-ups" in imitations of lighted cigarettes, rags round a cut finger, etc., which are, paradoxically speaking, life-like.

As to food, we could positively blush for some of the retailers, and it is a wise person to-day who can tell of what he or she has partaken, in spite of the Food Adulteration Act. Look, for instance, at the appetising fowl made from sucking-pig and hundreds of other ingenious concoctions come to light every now and again in the public press.

These artificialities undoubtedly re-act on humanity, and the folk of to-day are actually at pains to conceal their real self, and it is difficult for the student of human nature to find the original Adam. We smile so hypocritically when we feel really more inclined to strike a blow, and it is notorious we take our pleasures sadly. It is all a sham, as reflection will soon convince you, and for all the number of religious bodies, we do not seem to be growing one whit more natural.

It comes very refreshing, therefore, even amongst the artistic shams of the furniture world, to find revealed one firm who does not believe in this world-wide shoddiness and make-believe. We refer to the Midland Furnishing Company, Limited, of Southampton Row, Holborn, whose extensive showrooms are practically the centre of London. Here we have a firm whose motto is "Fair and Just Trading," and you can rely upon it that value for money is to be obtained at their establishment. If you, reader, are in the market for anything in the furnishing line, pay them a visit at any time to suit your convenience. No matter what your requirements, or whether you wish to spend £1 or £10 or £1,000, the same uniform courtesy is extended to you. We ourselves doubt if you can find a wider or more varied range in England. The furnished flats are a delight in themselves not to speak of the beautiful reproductions of other days, exact in every particular, and you can depend upon it that anything supplied by this well-known House is made substantially and of well-seasoned material. Attention is also paid to the small details that unvarying satisfaction is given.

Another thing to be remembered is that every article is marked in plain figures, and whether you pay cash—for which a discount of 5 per cent. is of course allowed—or take advantage of the gradual payment system, there are no distinctions made as regards prices, as the enormous turnover enables this Company to place cash and credit customers on practically the same footing. In fact, nothing is easier than to arrange matters to your entire satisfaction, as a few minutes' chat with one of their obliging assistants proved to the writer.

Further, if you live in the country it is worth knowing that the Midland Furnishing Company will pay your fare to town to enable you to make a personal choice in addition to which, all goods are packed without charge, and the carriage paid. This is a consideration in these hard times when money is short. A glance round their premises, however, will be quite sufficient inducement for the majority of people to speedily become purchasers, as the stock must of itself appeal to the man with £100 as well as to the man with £5,000 a year. In fact, every description of buyer is catered for. the man with the expensive and exclusive tastes, as well as the man who needs no fancy value but a solid money-to-be-seen-in-it piece of furniture.

A catalogue is published by the Midland Furnishing Company which we are informed is a masterpiece in the furniture-printing line, and this can be obtained on application, and must be a great boon to those people in the country who are prevented by some means or the other of coming to town. Personally, we believe in seeing before buying, but one can rest content to leave the selection with this firm whose reputation is of the best.

Whether you call or write, this Journal will be the gainer, as well as the purchaser of the goods, if you mention that you came because you saw this article on their firm.

A large portion of the Company's business is transacted with repeat orders, and this should be convincing enough that fair treatment is accorded to purchasers, not to speak of the many glowing testimonials their courteous manager can produce, as you do not generally find the average buyer patronise the same firm time after time unless satisfaction is given. An enormous stock to suit all purses, tastes and requirements, practically a guaranteed satisfaction in your purchase, an up-to-date initiative, and a never-failing courtesy to all, have made the Midland Furnishing Company to-day second to none in the Furniture World.

Need we say more.

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott

"The Lily."

There is no modern play in London at this moment that palpitates with such truthful human interest as "The Lily," indifferently Anglicised as it is. When I saw the original at the Vaudeville in Paris over two years ago, I was what Sarah Bernhardt once described in her own particular English, so deeply "emotioned" that all I wanted was to get back to my hotel and have a long think.

The *piece a these*, by Pierre Wolff (by the way, nearly every newspaper spells his name wrongly—in the programme itself it appears as *Woolfe*) and Gaston Leroux, is worked out so conclusively that no argument could wipe out thesignificant meaning the authors drive home with such comprehensive skill, namely, that a union of Love without the bonds of matrimony is more sacred and binding than a *lawful* marriage blessed by the Church, but where no affection exists.

On the one side, then, we see the cruelly selfish old rake of a father, the Comte de Maigny, who has even sold valuable heirlooms to gratify the taste of his latest fancy, buoyed up with the knowledge that his son is about to marry the wealthy daughter of a rich but lowly cotton merchant and so retrieve the lost fortunes of the de Maigny family.

On the other,are the two sisters—the elder one aged thirty-five, "The Lily," a gem of sweet pure womanhood by whom the sacrifice of youth and all chance of happiness has been borne uncomplainingly. "The Lily" has, indeed, but one strong attachment left in her faded being—her almost frenzied devotion to Christiane, by ten years the younger girl, but whose existence is ignored by the father and brother, just as hers has been. When we see Christiane for the first time, one glimpse is enough to tell you she is influenced by the tender rays of love's warm sunshine. The meeting in the leafy park with the successful artist is pleasant enough—the *denouement* not quite so joyful, for Christiane jokingly tells Arnault she has heard some gossip about him, but something so ridiculous that she laughed until the tears ran down her cheeks. "Only think of it," says the girl, "they told me you were married. Why, you've been here two summers, and if it were true shouldn't we have seen your wife? How idiotic some people can be!" Arnault replies: "It is true—I am married. We live apart—that's all. We must say good-bye—I must not see you again." But nature is irresistible. Christiane and Arnault become lovers, and clandestinely these two play the ever-fascinating "game of hearts," until the cotton merchant learns of the scandal and, within three days of his daughter's marriage with de Maigny's son, breaks off the match.

The scene at this moment is stupendous, and sweeps you off your feet. The father's interrogation of Christiane—her ultimate confession—the rush to her patient, faithful sister's side—and then the cyclone of fury with which "The Lily" turns and rends her father and brother, reminding them both of their lives, and how they have denied themselves nothing. Again, I seem to hear ringing in my ears the piteous accents of Suzanne Désprés, the French actress who created the part of "The Lily"—the woman whose small figure, and hungry face, and big sad eyes glorified by suffering, moved everybody to tears as she spoke of her lonely life, and the dread that her adored sister might be going to share the same fate. This act alone is sufficient to secure the success of any drama; but it is to be regretted that Mr. Laurence Irving did not adhere to his first plan and allow Miss Mabel Hackney to take the part of "The Lily." Miss Geraldine Oliffe is too large and buxom for the character; she is more like de Maigny's elderly housekeeper than a youngish woman of thirty-five. Miss Oliffe appears to be fifty at least. David Belasco finishes up his English idea of the story with the separation of Christiane and Arnault, with divorce in the distance and a wedding to follow. But the authors' intention is entirely smothered, which is to prove that True Love,unfettered by the chains of matrimony, can never end, whereas the miserable *mariages des convenances* generally finish in the law courts. The last scene in the French play is one of the most enchanting of all. Christiane and Arnault are together at Sorrento on a terrace overlooking the sea. "The Lily," unseen, is watching her sister and overhears their conversation. Christiane: "Can nothing ever part us—nothing?" Arnault: "Nothing, you are my wife—my beloved wife!" Christiane: "How good it is to hear you say those words. If we were parted now, we should surely die." Arnault: "Ssh! Our love is stronger even than that. It reaches to the far beyond. Say good-night to Sorrento; to-morrow we shall be in Palermo!" Then as they move away, "The Lily" cries out softly: "Christiane, my little sister! No, no, don't come back—live on—live on in your happy dreamland. I will kiss you—I will hold you in my arms—but not just yet, little sister—later on—later on!" And Christiane, with part of Arnault's cloak wrapped round her and his arms wound about her neck, disappears down the steps of the terrace. But no matter how blurred and misty the final scene is of the Belasco version of "Le Lys," we must be grateful to Mr. Laurence Irving for introducing the play to us for it is a remarkable work, brimming over with cleverness.

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There is no doubt about this lamp being the best half-guinea lamp value London has ever seen. The height over all is 17 inches. The diameter of the tilting shade is 9 inches, and it may be had in any colour to match your room, inside lined white. The brass pillar is a true Corinthian Model with key-switch at top and 3 yards cord from base to adapter. Take out your electric bulb, fit adapter, and put bulb in lamp, and it is ready. Order one now, and if it is not entirely to your satisfaction, return it, and we will refund cash in full. Price **10/6**

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G 2

TO VIEW THE CORONATION PROCESSIONS

FREE SEATS FOR "JOHN BULL" READERS.

By arrangement with the John Bull Coronation Syndicate we are able to offer a certain number of our readers FREE SEATS, in excellent positions, to view one of the Coronation Processions on June 22nd and 23rd.

The Syndicate is making arrangements to secure a number of sites in the finest positions, and to erect thereon stands commanding a full view of the Procession. The usual price for such seats would be from £5 to £10 each; but with a view to advertising "JOHN BULL," and at the same time to avoid any infringement of the Lottery Act, the following scheme has been devised:—

The Syndicate has also acquired a certain number of Fully Paid £1 Ordinary Shares in John Bull Limited—the proprietors of this journal—and these shares will be transferred in lots of Five each, EVERY PURCHASER BEING ENTITLED, IN ADDITION TO THE SHARES, to

TWO FREE CORONATION SEATS.

The Shares may be paid for by five instalments of £1 each, but to secure the best positions it is desirable that applicants should pay up in full on application.

No applications can be received after Monday, March 13th, but all applications will be dealt with in order of priority as received.

Let the scheme be clearly understood. The Shares are £1 each fully paid. They are Ordinary Shares, taking all the profits of the Journal after payment of 6 per cent. to the Preference Shareholders. They will be sold in lots of five, and the purchaser of each lot gets Two Seats for the Procession without any further charge. In other words, purchasers get Five Fully Paid Ordinary Shares in the most successful journal of modern times, and in addition to these shares they receive, by way of bonus, Two Seats to view the historic Procession. If they care to sell the seats they should have no difficulty in obtaining more than the price of the shares—thus securing their interest in the journal for nothing.

All applications must be made on the form printed below.

John Bull's Coronation Procession Seats.—Form of Application.

To The JOHN BULL CORONATION SYNDICATE, 93 & 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.

I hereby apply for Five Fully Paid Ordinary Shares of £1 each in John Bull Limited, on the condition that I am to have Two Seats, free of charge, to view the Coronation Procession on either June 22nd or 23rd next, and that in the event of no such seats being allotted to me, the amount paid by me in respect of such shares is to be returned in full.

Strike out one of these Paragraphs. { I enclose herewith the sum of £..... being payment in full in respect of such shares; or
I enclose herewith the sum of £1 on account of such shares, and will pay the balance by monthly instalments.

NAME.....

ADDRESS .....

THE ARMY—FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT.

By Allan Sutor.

Wastage.

A boy of 15 years was brought up at West London Police Court last week on a charge of deserting from the Royal Fusiliers. The magistrate stated that, owing to his tender years, he could not pass judgment on the boy, and that he must be dealt with by the Children's Court at Westminster. This suggestion by the magistrate is an excellent one. There is here a great opportunity for the ladies of the Territorial Nursing Association. Why not hand the boy over to them? Hitherto, our War Secretary has been so busy, visualizing forces that have no reality, that he has not yet had sufficient time to ascertain what sort of occupation his forces are intended to pursue. The case of this child ought to give him a little light on the subject. But in case there should be any misconception of the matter, it is perhaps better to explain that the child is one of our great Reserve of soldiers. He is one of those who would be left behind. But there are others. There is now a regular and systematic wastage of 7,000 men per annum. This happens after they have been trained. The pecuniary loss amounts to £210,000 a year. During the six years 1902-07 the number of men lost was 75,856. In money, this means a throwing away of £5,309,920!

Riding Lessons in the Argentine.

In the current number of the *Cavalry Journal*, General Sir Robt. Baden-Powell gives an amusing description of the methods adopted in one of the Cavalry riding schools in the Argentine Republic for teaching the recruits to ride. In order to show that they are not embarrassed in any way while in the act of negotiating the various hurdles, they are required to keep shouting aloud the substance of the lectures to which they have listened before going to the riding school. One recruit is described as riding gaily round the school at a gallop shouting "The Republic has as its President the distinguished Señor Don Porro," when his horse suddenly struck a fence and rolled over. The gallant horseman, as he turned a somersault in the air, continued to shout "And the name of the Adjutant-General of the Army is Aguiria." And as he finally landed bruised, dizzy and confused, he was still heard crying out, "and the Colonel of the regiment is Marco di Paolo"!

Officers from the Ranks.

Mr. Kellaway, M.P., has been trying hard to find out the truth in regard to the granting of commissions to "rankers." He asked "if the shortage in officers could be removed by increasing the opportunities open to suitable men of obtaining commissions from the ranks." Mr. Haldane replied, "No difficulties are placed in the way." Now if anyone wishes to find out the value of our War Secretary's statements, let him consult any N.C.O. on this subject. The editor of the *National Review* is content in the current issue to describe Mr. Haldane as a humbug. That is a very mild term. But with regard to the administration of public affairs, we exercise a noble charity. That is one of the evil signs of the times. With regard to private affairs, we are implacable.

The Great Deficiency of Officers.

A military contemporary, in commenting recently on the shortage of officers, mentions its belief "that the evil lies to a great extent in the uncertain future offered by the Army as a profession. 80 or 90 per cent. of the officers who left the Service of their own free will were men who were disgusted with the whole show. Major A. B. Churchill states that "the facts are not exaggerated." He says, "It is not too much to say that things are not as they should be, and that officers who bring waste, neglect, and worse to notice, do so at the personal risk of seriously imperilling their future prospects." If officers were only allowed to speak, they would tell a pretty tale.

On March 5th, 1908, Mr. Haldane, talking of the deficiency of officers, said, "We are calculating on getting a certain number of men who are likely to succeed to property." This statement is from a lawyer who has been recently touring the country inveighing against the iniquity of class distinctions—especially those enjoyed by the propertied classes! That sort of clap-trap is cheap. What soldiers want is to be led by the best men, irrespective of any class. Soldiers do not object to dead ancestors: their objection is to living men who have not acted up to the example of gallant forebears.

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Smoking Mixture

Sweet, Cool, and Free Burning.

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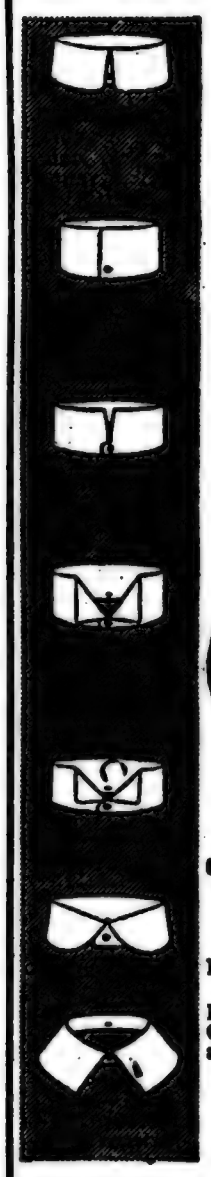

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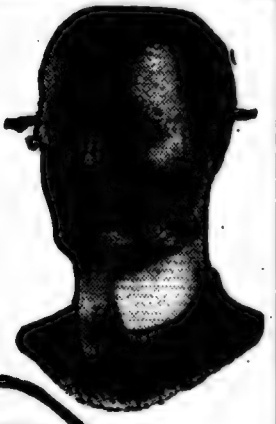

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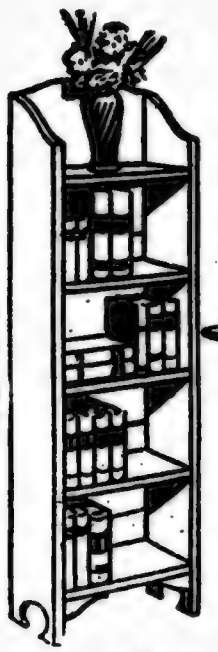
Because you choose to defer payments for your furniture over a period there is no reason at all why you should not avail yourself of the wonderful furniture bargains now to be seen at 252-256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.C. If you cannot call a special list of most wonderful bargains—in fact, a handsome furniture catalogue—will be sent you post free.

You are certain to be refurnishing at this season of the year, and whether you desire furniture in large or small amounts, just one more cosy chair for the lounge, a new sideboard or a new drawing-room suite to replace the faded Early Victorian pieces that long have been your nightmare, or a whole mansion of new articles, there are wonderful bargains to be secured at the address given, which all our readers will recognise as that of Messrs. Wolfe & Hollander's superb premises.



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It should be particularly noted that distance is no object in dealing with Wolfe & Hollander; their special private motor vans cover any distance in the home counties, and for those living outside this area arrangements are made to send purchases free by rail.

It may seem curious, but it is nevertheless true, that this firm have clients who have never seen the magnificent Tottenham Court Road showrooms. They have simply sent for the illustrated furniture book, in which prices are clearly stated, and ordered their articles by post, expressing their delight when the goods have been delivered more than fulfilling their expectations.

Whilst Wolfe & Hollander are prepared to supply furniture in this way, they much prefer that intending customers should visit their premises, so that the actual goods themselves may be seen before purchasing.

With thousands of feet of floor space they are able to show every conceivable design in bedroom, dining-room, or drawing-room suite from a few guineas to £40 or £50; special lounge chairs, pianos, kitchen furniture, side-boards, fumed oak furniture, a splendid selection of moderately-priced, rich carpets, and the best of other articles in modern and antique designs that go to make a home beautiful.

Look round the home in these early days of the year and just note what articles could well be replaced, and when you have made your list, call at the Wolfe & Hollander premises (or send for the illustrated furniture book) and see at what little cost you can make your home brighter, always remembering that there is no need to pay cash.

When writing for the furniture book please address your application to Wolfe & Hollander, Ltd., 252-256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.C. For your convenience we may mention the firm's telephone numbers are 1850 Gerrard and 14299 Central. Telegraphic Address, "Wolfhol, London."

The John Bull League.

THE PRESIDENT IN SCOTLAND.

Dundee.—Gilfillan Hall was packed to its utmost on Friday, February 24th, when the President and ex-Lieut. Sutor attended a meeting under the auspices of the League. Councillor R. M. Noble was in the chair, and was supported on the platform by a very large number of prominent Dundee citizens. After a few opening remarks, he introduced the President to the audience, who received him with tremendous applause. Mr. Bottomley spoke for nearly an hour. The League Song was splendidly sung by Mr. George Blair, accompanied on the organ by Mr. Johnson, who had previously entertained the audience with an organ recital. The President then had to leave to catch a train, and Mr. Sutor gave a short address on Army Administration, his points being enthusiastically applauded.

Edinburgh.—The following evening the Synod Hall was the scene of an even greater demonstration. Large as the building is, it proved quite inadequate to accommodate the vast crowd which assembled at its doors to hear the President and Mr. Sutor. An hour before the proceedings commenced the Hall was full, and the period of waiting was pleasantly passed in listening to an excellent concert which had been provided. A few minutes before 8 the large platform was filled by many well-known citizens, and on the stroke of the hour the President took the chair. His appearance was the signal for a most remarkable reception, the audience rising and cheering most enthusiastically and insisting upon rendering him musical honours. After the League Song had been finely rendered by Mr. William Baird, and the chorus heartily taken up in the Hall, the President commenced his address. In a masterly speech he held his hearers for nearly an hour and a quarter. The arrangements were splendidly carried out by the Local Secretary, Mr. W. T. Kelly, assisted by a large band of stewards.

BRANCH REPORTS.

Manchester.—Despite the wretched weather, a very large number of people attended the meeting (the first of a series) held at the Longsight Public Hall on Tuesday, February 21st, when the local chairman, Councillor H. Ross Clyne, dealt with several important matters of local interest. The utilisation of the old Manchester Infirmary site was the first subject touched upon, and in an able and convincing manner the Chairman advocated the right of the citizens to express their opinion upon the various schemes which had been suggested, and criticised the methods of the spending departments of the Corporation. In this he was well supported by Councillor John Hargreaves, and on a resolution calling upon the City Council to take a poll of the citizens being put to the meeting, it was carried unanimously. The next plea put forward was that Manchester should have a second stipendiary magistrate. Some very severe criticisms were passed upon the ruling of many of the lay justices, and upon the matter being put to a vote it was also carried without a single dissentient. Another question of considerable interest was the extension of hours for running workmen's cars from 7 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. Various cogent reasons were given by the chairman why these concessions should be granted to the public, and met with enthusiastic support from the audience. The resolutions were brought up by the Lord Mayor at the meeting of the City Council held the next day, and were ordered to be placed upon the minutes. A similar meeting will be held at Cheetham Public Hall on March 8th.

Leeds.—The local chairman, Mr. W. B. Russell, addressed a meeting at the East Hunslet Conservative Club on February 23rd. Mr. Richard Bamforth, of Roundhay, presided. Mr. Russell's address was followed with closest attention, and was loudly applauded. The greatest possible interest is being taken in the meeting to-morrow (Friday) night, when the President will deliver an address.

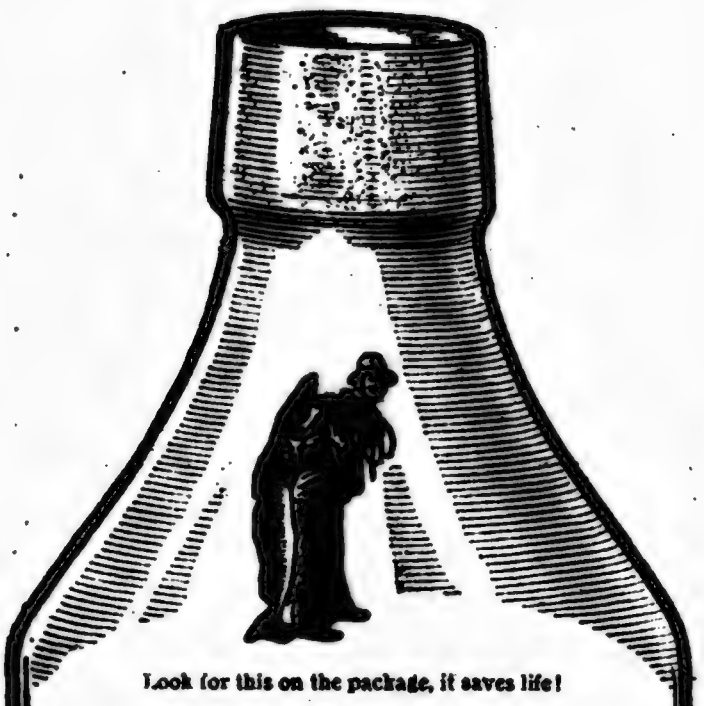
Sheffield.—The whist drive and dance organised by this branch took place on February 24, and proved to be a most enjoyable function. At the termination of the whist drive the prizes were presented by Mrs. R. H. Wilson, the wife of the popular vice-chairman of the branch. The arrangements for the dance were in the capable hands of Mr. G. W. Dey.

Plymouth.—A public meeting and concert will be held at the "Welcome," Fore Street, Devonport, on Wednesday, March 22nd. Members and friends willing to render assistance are invited to send particulars to the local hon. secretary, Mr. A. E. Hutchings, 20, Albert Road, Plymouth.

Bristol.—A very successful meeting was held at the Grand Hotel on February 23, when Mr. C. L. Kay, the central secretary of the Birmingham District, delivered a most interesting address on the objects of the League.

Birmingham.—A special meeting of members of the Small Heath Branch will be held at Park Restaurant, 478, Coventry Road, on Wednesday next, March 8th, at 8 p.m. It is particularly requested that members and their friends should make a special effort to be present, as some important proposals will be brought up for consideration.

(For Membership Coupon see page ii. of Cover.)



Look for this on the package, it saves life!

Consumption

was stopped by SCOTT'S Emulsion after Mr. Dyson Clare "persevered with Scott's." He writes from 49 Blaby Road, South Wigston, Leicester (March 24th, '10): "A Doctor said I was in the first stage of consumption. In a few weeks I felt strong enough to resume work again and consider myself cured." Scott's is the best-proved remedy for consumption.

SCOTT'S EMULSION

is the only emulsion that has a reputation in all parts of the world for curing disease. No other emulsion than Scott's has ever received the cordial approval of the medical and nursing professions the world over. Any emulsion bought instead of Scott's cannot give you the proof of cure which Scott's provides by world-wide testimony. This **certainty of cure** should be worth to you many times the price of Scott's Emulsion. Therefore, don't ask for "emulsion"—ask for **SCOTT'S EMULSION**, at all chemists.

Send for free sample bottle—enclose 3d. for postage and mention this paper. SCOTT & BOWNE, LTD., 10-11 STONECUTTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

TO H.M. THE KING

"Black & White" Whisky

Jas. Buchanan & Co., Ltd.,
Glasgow & London.

RILEY'S
Billiard Tables.

Roberts and Gray both made their record breakson Riley's standard tables.

The RILEY'S Miniature Table is built in exact proportion to the full size, and the game requires equal skill to play. Whatever size your room is, there is a RILEY'S Table to fit it. You can have a seven days' free trial at our expense. Riley's Miniature Billiard Tables to fit on your own dining table from £3/7/6. The 6ft. 4in. size, £5/5/0, is suitable for most rooms. RILEY'S Combined Billiard and Dining Tables from £13/10/0 to £24/10/0. Prices include all accessories, carriage paid to nearest railway station. *Cash or easy payments.*

Free on receipt of post-card, full detailed Illustrated Catalogue of Billiard and Dining Tables.

E. J. RILEY, Ltd., Crown Billiard Works, Accrington.
London Showrooms: 147, Aldersgate Street, E.C

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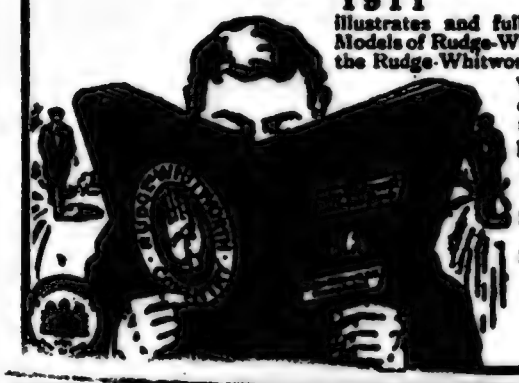
The New Rudge-Whitworth Art Catalogue for
1911
illustrates and fully describes the 1911 Models of Rudge-Whitworth Bicycles and the Rudge-Whitworth Motor Bicycles.



Write at once, and copy will be sent by return of post.

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LONDON DEPOTS:—
229 Tottenham Court Road, W.
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The "MASTA" for Pipe Lovers.

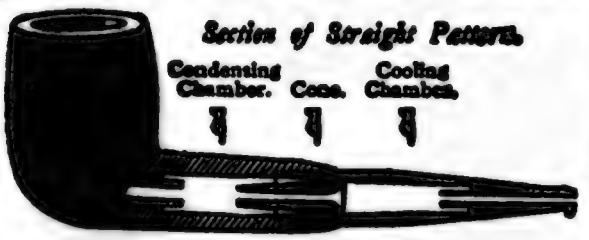
The "Masta" possesses a scientific but simple device which absolutely prevents any nicotine or moisture from reaching the mouth or pipe bowl. It ensures a cool and dry smoke to the end, and allows you to enjoy the full flavour of the tobacco.

There are no parts to get out of order, and the pipe can be easily cleaned. The "Masta" can be thoroughly enjoyed by those who cannot smoke an ordinary pipe.

Made of best selected briar.

Every pipe guaranteed.

Section of Straight Pattern.



Obtainable of all leading tobacconists. Price 2/6, 4/-, 5/6, 8/-, &c. Cheaper quality, 1/-. Write to-day for free booklet, "Points on Pipes." Full of useful hints.

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494 DOCTORS

out of 514, declare that "an increased consumption of OAT-FOOD would greatly benefit the Nation."

Read the startling Food-Facts discovered by the National Food Enquiry Bureau's broad investigation.

What the Doctors told the Investigators:—

Representative doctors—514 of them—doctors in general practice, educational doctors and medical officers of health, gave their views regarding the value of Oat-Food. Almost all of them use it regularly and 494 declare that the health of the Nation would improve if more oats were eaten by the public. Only 9 say there would be no benefit; 11 give no decided opinion.

The doctors were practically unanimous in declaring Oat-Food to be exceptionally nutritious and economical; that Oat-Food promotes the physical and mental development of children; that it is excellent for sedentary workers, and especially advantageous for people of limited means (because of its great economy).

The Opinion of Nurses.

School Nurses and General Nurses gave their verdict in favour of Oat-Food with an equal eagerness. A further point emphasised by the School Nurses was that children fed on oats are better nourished than the non-oat eaters.

The Reason for Oat-Food.

For your money you get in oats more proteids, organic, phosphorus, and lecithin than in any other food. Proteid is the body-building, the energy-giving food. Phosphorus is the brain-food; lecithin the food of the nerves and nerve-centres.

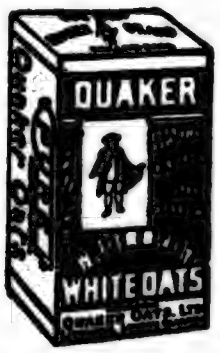
Oat-Food at its Best.

The whole world knows that Oat-Food is found at its best in Quaker Oats.

The large, thin flakes that cook and digest so easily.—The delicious flavour impossible to any other Oat-Food.—

The purity and cleanliness of Quaker Oats—never touched by hand through all the unique process of milling.—The SEALED packets—

The Economy proved by "40 Meals for Sixpence."—These are a few of the reasons why Quaker Oats is



The One Perfect Oat-Food

Quaker Oats

The food that builds brains and bodies

Through the courtesy of the Bureau, we can send a copy of the Report to you if you are interested. Address, Quaker Oats Ltd., Dept. 277, 11, Finsbury Square, London, E.C.

BULL'S EYES.

Notes of Interrogation :—
Will Home Rule make things straight in Ireland?
Is the Parliament Bill a thing of credit?
How does Mr. Ginnell like being "hung up"?
Will the "phantom peers" ever "materialise"?
Isn't the Reciprocity Scheme a matter of "consideration"?
Isn't the Thames Valley rather Water-bored just now?
Wasn't the trouser skirt sure to be sat on?
Is giving instruction in prison the way to "lesson" crime?
Oughtn't the Commandments to be "kept" as they are?
Why can't the House of Keys overcome a deadlock?
How far can one travel on the French State railway without a break?
Will "Baby Mine," at the Criterion, raise a howl?

A Report on Physical Deterioration says, "the effects of alcohol should be brought home." They usually have to be.

The dog which the New York Christian Scientist claims to have cured might have been a hopeless case, but it evidently wasn't past praying for.

In Eye, Suffolk, there has been one conviction for drunkenness in the past year. Eye is looking up.

Two comic journals, one Armenian and one Turkish, have been stopped by the authorities at Constantinople. Suppressed mirth.

The man imprisoned for fishing in a pillar-box for letters doubtless wanted to get a bite.

The aviator who took an involuntary dip in the briny treated the incident very coolly; it was a "mere drop in the ocean."

"Choppy Church Music," reads an *Express* headline. But isn't most music in pieces?

A cock-crowing contest is to be held at Dunmow. Party Game-cocks should be barred.

"Our pastimes of to-day have produced a slouching gait," says Mr. C. Sharp. But the football "gate" is "no slouch."

The two men who were each fined £5 and costs for shooting a pheasant without a licence, now say the game is not worth it.

"'Trimming' on Home Rule," we read. Are the Irish putting on frills already?

"People can fall in love without any capital," says Mr. Hill Rowan. But not without interest.

The Coronation season colour is to be blue, we are informed. We would have preferred things to look rosy.

The Coliseum folk know what they are about, although they are trying a *Sumurun* in the winter.

A defender of the hobble skirt says it would not be so popular unless there was something in it. Quite so.

"Most millionaires' wives are unhappy," says Andrew Carnegie. But they don't have a poor time of it.

The Hungarian farmer who committed suicide at the age of 107 must have had an impatient disposition.

"The Silver Box" is to be revived at the Coronet Theatre. We trust there will be money in it.

"Did the Conqueror wear a scarf?" asks a morning paper. It speaks volumes for his pluck if he faced our climate without one.

A Mr. Jump speaks of "obstacles to our reaching the sanitary millennium." Surely *he* can get over them.

Strap-hangers are now recommended to carry their own strap. We shall shall take our own seat.

"Just a Minute," the title of a new sketch at the Palace Theatre, seems to indicate that it is bound to go.

"A police-constable is almost sacred," says Mr. Plowdon. We must call it Di-Vine Street.

"It is sometimes sadder to go to a wedding than to a funeral," says Dr. George Wilson. Is he married?

If, as is stated, Peter the Painter is fond of draughts, he must have had the time of his life lately.

The oyster argument has now developed into "open" warfare.

Books to be Shelved :—
"Account Rendered." Should pay.
"Pitman's Where to Look." Has some good "points."
"Brazil." Fine, nutty flavour.
"The Unseen Barrier." Gave us quite a shock.
"The City of Shadows." Dismal in places.
"Our Prisons." Full of bad characters.
"The Bermondsey Twin." Very singular.
"The Card." Queer.
"Following Feet." The title seems prophetic.
"The Leech." You can't get away from it.
"The Polar Star." Very bright.
"The Mark of His Calling." Sweeping.
"A Weak Woman." Appeals strongly.

SANDOW says :—

"PLASMON

is the essential food I have so long wished for, and I would never be without it."

Plasmon and Plasmon Cocoa, 9d., 1/4, 2/6
Plasmon Oats, 6d.

PLASMON IS USED BY THE ROYAL FAMILY.

PRIVATE DETECTIVES

KIMPTONS

Prompt
Reliable
Honest

CONSULTATION FREE.

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71 STRAND, W.C.

A Word to the Wide-Awake!

All Goods Sent Direct from Factory to Home.

Do you know that practically ALL Bedsteads are made in Birmingham? Why not then buy one direct from the 'workman's' hands, in a perfectly new condition? I also supply BEDROOM SUITES, SITTING-ROOM SUITES, SIDEBOARDS, OVERMANTELS, &c., at Very LOW PRICES, payable in any way that will suit you. My lists contain a large assortment of latest designs.

Show Rooms 62, MOOR ST.

Fully Illustrated price lists POST FREE.

For 22 Years I have supplied the public direct (without making use of shops or stores) with Bedsteads, Wire Mattresses, Bedding, Cots, Curbs of every description, and also General Household Furniture.

All Goods sent direct from Factory to Home (Saving Middle Profits) in a Perfectly New Condition.
PROMPT DESPATCH. PACKED FREE. CARRIAGE PAID.
Discount for Cash, or payments to suit Buyer's convenience.

CHAS. RILEY,
(Desk 8), MOOR STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

BE SURE TO LOOK AT THE OUTSIDE BACK COVER.

AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY.

£25,000 GIVEN AWAY!

NEW SYSTEM OF RAPID MONEY-MAKING.

In order to place before every reader of "John Bull" the Golden Opportunity of acquiring a FREE SHARE in an industrial concern with FREEHOLD LAND SECURITY, arrangements have been made by a well-known firm of Bankers to distribute

100,000 FREE SHARES

representing £25,000, Without any Cost or Liability Whatsoever to Applicants.

JOSEPH LEITER,

who has made several huge fortunes in extraordinary short periods of time. Few men in the world's history have made money multiply itself so rapidly as Joseph Leiter.

It is open to every man or woman to learn how money makes money. No one can become wealthy on the 2½ per cent. per annum interest such as is paid to those who deposit their money with bankers and others, who themselves use it to bring in from twenty to thirty to several hundreds per cent. profit.

These Shares will be issued in STRICT ROTATION, therefore it is important to reply at once if you intend to grasp this WONDERFUL CHANCE OF ACQUIRING SOMETHING FOR NOTHING which may be worth, in the course of a week or two, a crisp Five-pound Note.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

is to write your name and address plainly on postcard, put a ½d. stamp on it, and

Post at Once.

This is an offer made to the thrifty saver, and a **CHANCE OF A LIFETIME.** It is in no way connected with Premium Bonds or Lottery Tickets. All the Bankers wish to do is to put before 100,000 people an Illustrated and Coloured Prospectus of an opportunity that will produce a fortune.

IF YOU RECEIVE NO REPLY you will understand that the whole of the 100,000 Free Scrip have been applied for.

JAMES R. KEENE

Started his money-making career with a very small amount of money. In a very short while he made £2,000,000.

Readers now have the opportunity of learning something of the same methods whereby Mr. Keene made his money.

So Don't Delay. Apply at Once.

Everyone who wants to make money will be delighted at this announcement. To-day an unprecedented opportunity is given to every reader of this paper to make large profits with small sums, from a few shillings upwards. "Money Makes Money"—so runs the old phrase—and if you possess a spare sovereign you are now given the chance to prove its truth. For, free of all charge, you will be sent to-day full particulars of a system of rapid money-multiplying by which your sovereign may be increased to two, three, four, or five sovereigns, your £5 to £25, £50, or £100, your £10 to correspondingly larger sums, and so on to fortunes. All you have to do is to write to the address given below, and by return you will be sent, free of charge, a Free Share without Cost or Liability.

Remember, 100,000 Free Shares

representing £25,000 without any Cost or Liability.

In March the number to be distributed is only 5,000

SO WRITE AT ONCE.

WRITE TO-DAY.

Your opportunity is NOW. There is no need to look for an opening: it is here this very instant, staring you in the face.

Don't put this paper down with the remark, "I'll see about it."

Those who say "I'll see" generally "forget." Strike while the iron is hot.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

to secure this wonderful opportunity is to simply write your name and address on a ½d. postcard, and post it NOW.

You can Test the Genuineness of this Offer

at once by sending a Postcard to

UNITED SERVICE SHARE EXCHANGE,

Dept. J.B., 2, Army and Navy Mansions, 115, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Telephones: 5227 and 110 Westminster.
Telegrams: "Ussharex, London."

NOTE.—"ONE APPLICATION ONLY IS ENTERTAINED FROM EACH ADDRESS. ANY DEVIATION FROM THIS RULE WILL MAKE VOID ALL FUTURE BENEFITS ACCRUING."

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The Editor *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of enquiries received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and only those of general interest will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.

AUTHORS and artists submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work when stamped, addressed envelopes are sent for the purpose. All matter submitted must be original unless otherwise stated. The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).

The Editor cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.

Correspondents are requested not to send original certificates, testimonials, etc., as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be sent in the first instance; if inspection of the originals is required, a request will be forwarded to that effect

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENCE is increasing steadily. In future, we will disregard any letter which is not duly authenticated with name and address, which may be given in strict confidence.

The Editor of the *Tuam Herald* says that his is not the paper which told the tale about the budding patriot declaring himself to be "*the son of a pheasant.*" He suggests that the journal referred to was probably published at Tralee.

"Anonymous" (Birmingham) tells us that the old hag of Buckingham Street, a few days after our publication of her letter, "cleared clean out, and the shop and house are now empty." Possibly the local police—despite their reluctance for certain strong reasons to interfere with her—were at last afraid of Home Office intervention, and gave her a gentle hint.

"Live and Let Live" (Blackfriars) is a *butcher*. People come to him for meat from Monday to Friday, but go to the market themselves for the Sunday joint. He thinks this wrong and wants to close the market on Saturdays! He even grumbles that his "constimers" have "lived out of" him up till Friday. But surely he has lived out of them, too.

W. L. (Birmingham) became jealous of his wife. He taxed a man with undue familiarity, but was told it was only "idle gossip." However, he kept double watch and at last surprised the pair "just as they had meet under the arches." He assures us that "the language that passed was more forcable than perlight." He wants to know if that is sufficient *evidence for a divorce*. We should have thought not—more a case for the Court of Arches.

"Reader" (Hastings) says that the scene of the incident referred to in our recent paragraph headed "*The Public Shot Here*," was "a Guestling wood"—not Guestling Wood, as stated in the local paper upon which our comment was based. At any rate, we hope we are now out of the wood.

F. J. P. (Walthamstow).—Sorry to hear you are suffering from *wind, bad teeth, and varicocele*. But we do not profess to give medical advice. It is as much as we can do to keep well ourselves.

S. H. W. (Shepherd's Bush).—We do not give ourselves *biscuits* for our own epigrams. You must go to Scotland to cultivate a sense of humour.

H. J. (Newport, Mon.).—We live in a benighted town and never even heard of the gentleman who printed the *Sermon on the Mount* as a leading article.

Mr. William Millican (Lee House, Tynehead, Alston) writes, apropos of the comments in our issue of January 28th upon the dismissal (the Bench being unable to agree) of a charge against him of cruelty in ringing the noses of two *sheep-dogs*. He says he can "bring a score of witnesses" to prove that he is very kind to animals, and that ringing dogs has prevented them from biting sheep, besides "often prolonging their lives from eight to ten years." There certainly seems something in what he says.

"Justice" (Brixton) condemns *the Church* for indifference to the sufferings of the lower creatures, but sweeping statements of this kind would be strengthened by corroborative evidence.

"One of Them" (Kensington) suggests that the Queen should give a *Coronation present* to all the Marys, instead of receiving one. Why not both?

S. T. writes, *re* our comment upon the collections for "sick and poor" at Immanuel Church, Croydon, that "some well-known ladies bountifully help the poor of the parish." All the same, the figures did look a bit peculiar, didn't they?

"Nemo" thinks of becoming clerk to a money-lender named *Victor Loire* (74, Above Bar, Southampton), and wants to know if he may safely deposit £50. Why not start on his own?

H. R. (Calcutta) and many other Indian readers, confirm our recent statement about *Indian Missionaries*.

N. H. L. (Kilburn).—We are afraid we must not take *Sandy McNab* too seriously. At any rate, it is too late to re-open the Crippen case.

P. L. (Sidcup).—We understand it is a condition of all contracts that *British warships* should be built of nothing but British steel.

"A Cheese-eater" (Finsbury Park) protests against the carelessness of *cheesemongers* who use tacks to affix the wrappings of cheeses. When the wrappings are removed, the tacks remain; in fact, they are a stomach-tax. On three separate occasions he has nearly broken his teeth. He explains his apparent recklessness by the fact that, while eating his supper, he writes letters to catch the midnight mail. This illustrates the mischief of trying to do two things at once.

E. J. M. (Bethnal Green Road) says "the average *milk-carrier* has to work 13 and 14 hours a day for six days, and 8 or 10 on Sunday, and receives less consideration than the ordinary scavenger." He thinks the dairy trade should not be excluded from the Shops Bill. He has founded a Dairy Employees Association, and says "it very nearly knocks the John Bull League." Hurrah! Milk-ho!

(*Continued on page* 358.)

Nerve Force Restored by Electricity.

An Interesting Story for all Health Seekers.

Every organ of the body is governed by the network of nerve wires. These nerves convey the power which runs the organism. This power is called nerve force. Nerve force is nothing but electricity.

The reason any organ becomes weak is because the nerves which control it lack electricity—the motive power of the body. This lack of nerve force is shown by weakness of any kind, whether in the stomach, liver, kidneys, heart, or other organs.

When the memory is poor, confidence and nerve all gone, sleep restless; if there are frequent headaches, and the eyes are dull and heavy, it shows that the supply of nerve force is depleted.

So many people try to build up nerve force by overtaxing their stomachs with medicine. It is impossible. What the nerves require is nourishment—nerve food. If there was any nourishment in medicine it might do some good, but there is not; you know it if you have tried it. Drugs are stimulants—not food. Electricity is nerve food—nerve life. It soaks into the nerves, and is taken up by them just as a sponge absorbs water. It nourishes and revitalises the parts which medicine cannot reach.

Every dose of medicine taken into the stomach weakens the nerves. Every time you kill an ache or a pain by stupefying the nerves with medicine, you are hurting them, and anyone can see that in time, by steady dosing, the nervous system will be completely broken down.

It is pitiable to see the wage-earner, the man with others dependent upon him, rendered unfit for work by a breaking down of his nervous system. He has tried to keep up, but Nature will have her way, and unless he replenishes his nerve supply by electricity, he sooner or later must pay the penalty.

This applies to women as well as men. What electricity does for men it does also for women. It is the grandest invigorator and strengthener known to-day. The majority of ailments peculiar to women can be greatly alleviated or cured by an intelligent treatment of electricity.

Medical opinion, where electricity is understood, endorses it thoroughly. Dr. Somerville, in a paper read before the Electro-Therapeutic Society, said:—"I have every confidence in asserting that following a course of treatment varying from 12 to 50 applications it is possible to give relief emphatically and permanently to a sufferer from sleeplessness. By electricity the sleep that is produced resembles that of childhood, and is unaccompanied by any headache disturbance of digestion, constipation, or nervousness, all of which symptoms we are accustomed to meet in those for whom the usual sleep-producing drugs have been prescribed. The sleep which electricity gives rise to is not only sound but decidedly refreshing."

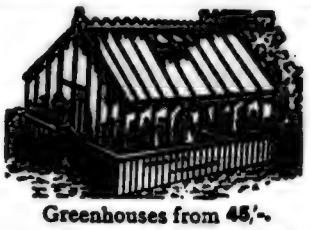
Dr. Monell, in discussing both galvanic and static currents, says:—"When these, single or together, fail to cure pain, and in common with all other measures, fail to give but temporary relief (as often in locomotor ataxia and cancer), they are blessed palliatives to the patients, for, unlike drug pain destroyers, which also destroy vitality, electrical currents build up the forces of nutrition."

Practical knowledge of the curative effects of electricity induced the invention of the "Ajax" Dry-Cell Body Battery, a self-charged electric generator for giving new life and strength to weak, worn-out bodies; for the cure of Rheumatic Pains, Stomach, Kidney, Liver, Bowel, and Bladder Troubles; for the alleviation of Paralysis, Epilepsy, Locomotor Ataxia, Chorea (St. Vitus' Dance), and all nervous troubles. It is specially for those who have been trying to get relief for years, and have been forced to conclude that they are incurable. Hundreds of these cases can be cured if electricity is used in the proper way.

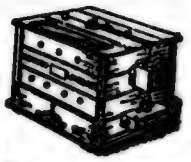
There is a book telling all about it, and how it is done. It is free to all who write for it. This is not merely a price list, but an illustrated pamphlet which everyone ought to read. If you cannot call for a free test, ask The British Electric Institute (Dept. 41), 25, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C., to send the book. It will show you the road to happiness and health.

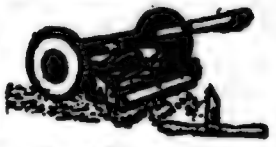
WM. COOPER'S
24th ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE

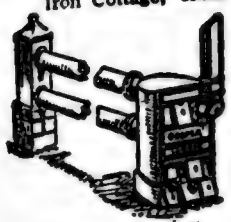
Good Sound Material and Workmanship Guaranteed at 15 to 50 per cent. below usual prices.


Greenhouses from 45/-.

Iron Cottage, £42.


Complete Incubators, 22/6.


Lawn Mower, 12/6.


Complete Heating Apparatus, 52/6.

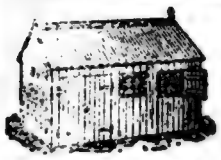
Nest Boxes, 2/3.

Portable Huts, 32/6.

Cucumber Frames, 13/6.

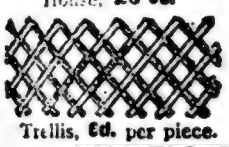
Rustic Houses, 27/6.

Foster Mothers, 22/6.

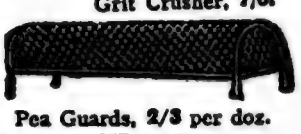

Stable and Coach House, £8 5s.

Poultry Houses, from 10/-.

Grit Crusher, 7/6.


Trellis, 6d. per piece.

Garden Lights, 1/6.


Pea Guards, 2/3 per doz.

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BIGGEST ENGLISHMAN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

PRAISES BARRATT'S "FOOTSHAPE" BOOTS.

(Copy of Letter just received).

To W. BARRATT & Co., Ltd. January 27th, 1911.

Dear Sirs,—I cannot help expressing to you my appreciation of the admirable make of your boots, their cheapness and true fit. I am the biggest Englishman in South Africa (I stand 6 ft. 9 in.). For you to fit me from the first measurement speaks volumes for your care and attention to Overseas customers' orders. If only you were better known you would get heaps of orders.

Yours truly, A. V. MELLOR (Proprietor),
Bridge Hotel, Tina Bridge, *via* Umtata, Cape Colony.

If we can satisfactorily serve Mr. Mellor in far-off South Africa (and thousands of other Over-Seas customers in all parts of the world), surely we can satisfy every reader of "John Bull" in this country.

Send a trial Order on the "Satisfaction or Money Back" System and see.

128-page CATALOGUE FREE, on receipt of 2d. (cost of postage only). Saves pounds in your Family Boot Bill.

Direct from the Factory to your door.

DESCRIPTIONS.

No. 1617.—BOX CALF BOOT, 8/6.—Splendid Box Calf Uppers, straight golosh, no outside seam, unbreakable jockey back, toecapped (as illustrated), best linen lined, specially selected, hard wearing solid leather sole, sewn. Best make and finish throughout.

No. 1717.—GLACE KID BOOT, 8/6.—Exactly same style and quality as above, but slightly lighter in weight.

No. 1417.—BROWN WILLOW CALF, 9/6.—A magnificent boot. Rich nut-brown shade and warranted real "Willow" Calf.

THE "BARRATT" SYSTEM OF SIZES AND WIDTHS.

GENTLEMEN'S "Footshape" Boots are made in eight different sizes: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (size 12, 1/- extra). Each size is made in four different widths. No. 3 width (for slender feet); No. 4 (medium); No. 5 (wide); No. 6 (extra wide).

COUPON. *"John Bull," March 4, 1911.*

TO W. BARRATT & CO., LTD. NORTHAMPTON.

I herewith deposit 8/6, for which please send me POST FREE one pair of "Footshape" Boots No..... Size..... Width..... It is clearly understood that if I am not satisfied I will return the boots and you will return my 8/6 in full immediately.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

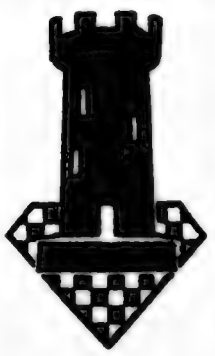
Altogether you have 32 different sizes and widths to select from.

If size is not known, send an old boot, or draw out line of stockinged foot on paper. (Outline of boot is of no use.)

We Guarantee Perfect Fit or Money Back.

Pin this COUPON to your letter.

W. BARRATT & CO., Ltd.,
The World's Leading "Boots-by-Post" Specialists
(Desk 66). Sterling Works, NORTHAMPTON.



Founded on good materials

CASTLE
COLLARS

Faced with genuine Irish Linen of our own manufacture, Castle Collars do not crack or split; neither do they turn yellow in washing, but retain their whiteness to the end.

Collars in all Single shapes. Per dozen, 4/11, or six for 2/6

Dress Shirts, "Matchless" quality each 5/11

Shirts refitted from, per half-dozen 14/-

Illustrated List post free.

ROBINSON & CLEAVER, Ltd.
44, E. Donegall Place,
LONDON. BELFAST. LIVERPOOL.

"Move On" (Bexhill) says he has discovered an infallible *counterblast for German bands*, organ grinders and Salvation "Army" minstrels. All you have to do is to open your window and turn on a gramophone. Failing that, a child's trumpet, if really noisy, will answer the purpose. This sounds something like retaliation.

"Done" (Manchester) says he cannot obtain £2 7s. 9d. from the *Football Investment Co.*, who announce a "guaranteed fund" of £25,000. Perhaps the guaranty is not a very good one.

R. C. (Scarborough) protests against allusions to the *North Pole* as "up there," and to the Antipodes as "down there." He asks, "How can top and bottom be applied to a globe floating in space?" But the North is usually at the top of the map.

M. G. K. (King's Cross).—Your idea of a bulldog is better than that of *Jim Crow*, who eats too much soup to dare to wear whiskers. Nor has a notice-board yet been hammered into his hard head. Nor does he wear a pen over his long ear. Thanks for the *pretty pictures* all the same.

E. A. E. (Burton-on-Trent).—If we gave "Fur and Feather" a biscuit there might be attempts to make our fur and feather fly.

B. P. R. (Llanelly).—The open telegram to *Dom Manoel* meant "good riddance."

M. F. (Waterford).—If you had picked up the *three halfpenny stamps* more quickly, the clerk at the G.P.O. would probably have given you *change for* your *half-sovereign*. Otherwise you might have amused yourself by refusing to pay.

R. G. R. (Dublin) thinks "the most terrible fact" about an *Irish Roman Catholic* is that murder is his secret vice, but adds that "a fiendish vice like this is only the same as drinking a glass of whisky." He is doubtless alluding to the Irish variety.

F. J. W. (Walthamstow).—Hard luck fining you 24s. for *forgetting to weigh a 2d. loaf*. But the Bread-weighing law is important. You scarcely seem to have been a little loafer.

A. G. (Newcastle-on-Tyne) warns against *Canadian harpies*. A Tyneside man was told about splendid openings in British America. He sold up and crossed the Atlantic with his family, only to find he had been hoaxed. They all came back, and are now struggling to recover their old position.

"A Regular Reader" wants to know what will happen to us in view of "*everlasting do-all machines*." We suppose the State will supply us with all our needs automatically.

"One Who Has Suffered" complains of a *fee-snatching moneylender*, but we cannot endorse anonymous charges.

H. K. (South Woodford).—Glad the *defaulting firm* paid up. We are amused they said you were "a little too sharp in writing to John Bull." We hope other readers will be equally sharp in similar cases.

"Shameful" (London) and others, write complaining of the *special licence* granted to "Miss Edna May" for her supper and ball at the Savoy on a recent Saturday night. Evidently what some people may not do, Edna may.

A. E. W. (Wattsburg, B.C.).—Impossible for us to recommend English publishers for a book which Canadian publishers "dare not print on account of attacks on the judiciary of belated and *graft-ridden Canada*." That book must be hot if nobody dare tackle it in Canada.

"Zoophilist."—We don't doubt that the *tortoise* suffers a great deal of torture while being stripped of its shell for commercial purposes. The remedy is on no account to purchase tortoise-shell articles.

A. B. W. (Longsight).—To think of your going to a place like *Hull* and trying to get a bun and milk in a shop after ten o'clock p.m.! As a traveller you ought to have known that Hull has a Watch Committee which looks carefully after the morals of its citizens.

P. H. (Camden Town).—Sorry to hear that you had only 4½d., and the man in charge of the *Salvationist Shelter* in Blackfriars Road would not let you in because you had not another halfpenny. We always thought a Salvationist could not serve both God and Mammon.

"Peo-Bull" (Clifton).—Don't worry about a paper which mixes up Mr. Lloyd Morgan, F.R.S., LL.D., with *Mr. Lloyd George*. The one is a professor of moral philosophy; the other is a prospector for precious metals.

G. D. W. (Chester) enquires about the *Burlington Press and Publishing Co.*, which offers to place MSS.—for a fee.

S. W. (Hammersmith) has been puzzled by the following *advertisement*, which appeared in the "Daily Express": "Any intelligent man over 21, who wishes to better his position, should write for particulars of Inspectorships of Weights and Measures (salaries £100 to £300 a year) to Inspector of Weights and Measures, Oakham, Rutland." He wonders why Oakham should control such appointments. Perhaps the address should be Hoax-'em.

R. F. G. (East Dulwich).—Why should we pay 5s. each for *biscuits* when we get so many beauties for nothing?

A. B. C.—We do not share your objection to *automatic machines* in sweet-shops, even when a very mild element of gambling is introduced. Nor do we believe that these machines led your office-boys into pilfering.

"A Reader" Bloomsbury) wants to know whether a special staff of detectives from Scotland Yard is in attendance on *Dom Manoel*, and, if so, who pays the expense? Not the Duke of Orleans, anyhow.

"A Regular Reader" (Islington) says the young lady *pianists in cinematograph shows* are subjected to a great strain and often have to play five hours without intermission seven nights a week. He says playing in the dark makes matters worse; but some folks like playing in the dark.

H. S. (Ballyclare) writes: "If you can do as I think you can do, it will be the means of getting a number of *new readers* of your journal." There is nothing we can't do, except lie or steal.

W. P. (Pinner).—You can scarcely expect us to *guarantee* every firm which advertises in John Bull.

[*We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.*]

HOW TO GET FAT

Home Treatment which Works Wonders in Making Scraggy, Undeveloped Men and Women Plump and Attractive.

2/6 Box Free.

Thin persons, particularly those from ten to thirty pounds under weight, will be interested to learn of a marvellous discovery which puts on flesh at the rate of a pound a day in many instances, rounds out the figure, and makes thin folks fatten up, even if they have been scraggy for years.

Don't shut your eyes and say "Impossible!" Put this new treatment to the test. The test is free (see coupon below), and surely the test will tell. It is not necessary that you should remain skinny and under weight for the rest of your life, even if you have vainly tried every "fattener" you ever heard of.

This new discovery calls for no drastic dieting, no detention from business. You go about as usual, eat what you like. It is harmless to the most delicate

"I was just as thin as you are before I tried Sargol."

system, and contains no oils, emulsions, nor alcohol. Just a concentrated tablet which can be taken privately. Your nearest friends need not know what you are doing until you astonish them with a visible and pleasing increase in weight.

Excessive thinness is very mortifying. Thin men never look like "real money." They are pushed aside in the race for success. Bony women are seldom very popular. Dress will not hide skin and bones. All men admire fine figures. Take Sargol and get out of the feather-weight class.

Post the Coupon to-day. Send your name and full address to the Sargol Co. (Dept. 130), 124, Holborn, London, E.C. They will send at once the 2s. 6d. package of Sargol, and will write and show you why you have remained thin, and how Sargol puts on firm flesh in a natural way. There is no longer any necessity for you to remain skinny and ill-developed.

FREE COUPON.

This certificate entitles the holder to one 2s. 6d. package of Sargol, the home treatment which makes thin folks plump and attractive.

Please enclose 3d. stamps to help pay distribution expenses.

The Sargol Co. (Dept. 130), 124, Holborn, London, E.C.

If You're Seeking a Position

which will afford fullest scope for your Special Capabilities, get into touch with it through Hapgoods. We bring to other Men of Special Ability, and Employers seeking Capable Men to fill the Responsible Positions they have open—positions carrying salaries of from £150 to £1,000 a year. If you are a really First Class Man—and your record is good—write us to-day.

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Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and Whooping Cough by the use of **Potter's Asthma Cure**, in 1/- Tins. Sold everywhere. For FREE SAMPLE send post card to POTTER & CLARKE, LTD., Artillery Lane, London, E. [Mention this Magazine.

Instant Relief.

HAVE YOUR DOORS FITTED WITH THE

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WHICH OPENS THEM WHEN YOUR HANDS ARE FULL.

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LAST A LIFETIME.

All Ironmongers and Furnishers sell them. . . Particulars:—

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CHELTENHAM.

3,000 CURES IN TEN MONTHS.

This is the record of my new Three-fold Absorption Treatment which is guaranteed to cure all forms of

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MY FREE OFFER.

Every person cutting out and sending me the coupon below at once will get—Free to try—my complete new 3-fold absorption cure for Piles, Ulcer, Fissure, Prolapse, Tumours, Constipation, and all rectal troubles. If you are fully satisfied with the

GILES W. VAN VLECK (*from photo*).

benefit received you can send me 4/6. If not, you have only to say so, and it costs you nothing; you decide after a thorough trial. This wonderful Absorption Treatment, which I am offering free, is even curing cases of 30 and 40 years' standing, as well as all the earlier stages. Act now, and save yourself untold suffering, for piles lead to fistula and the deadly cancer. My three-fold treatment cures to stay cured, because it is constitutional as well as local, and I want you to try it at my expense.

FREE 4/6 COUPON

Entitling anyone with Piles to receive, prepaid, Free to Try, a regular 4/6 Package of Dr. Van Vleck's three-fold Absorption Treatment, together with my valuable New Book in colours (in plain wrapper).

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Address .....

Only one trial packet to one address. MN4A.

Send no money—just the coupon to GILES W. VAN VLECK, MN4a, Bangor House, Shoe Lane, London, E.C. Write to-day.

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Restores gloss and brilliancy—stops hair falling—nourishes and strengthens the roots—removes dandruff—positively makes the hair grow—is a beneficial and pleasant dressing for daily use.

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JUNON Ltd.

Hair Stain

This is the only permanent and really satisfactory one-solution hair stain—absolutely harmless—perfectly natural tints—easily applied in one operation—defies detection—does not stain the skin.

post 1/- & 2/9 free

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J. E. & Co.

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TRIAL OF PLAPAO

STUART'S PLAS-TR-PADS are different from the painful truss, being made self-adhesive purposely to hold the rupture in place without straps, buckles or springs—cannot slip, so cannot chafe or compress against the pelvic bone. The most obstinate cases cured in the privacy of the home. Thousands have successfully treated themselves without hindrance from work. Soft as velvet—easy to apply—inexpensive. Process of cure is natural, so no further use for trusses. We prove what we say by sending you Trial of Plapao absolutely FREE. Write name on coupon and mail TO-DAY.

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Sperminum is the natural source of health and vital strength, isolated and purified from organic bases.

In the form of the Essence, Spermin acts as a REVIVER of VITAL ENERGY, and so stimulates healthy body juices, which resist disease and retard vital decline.

NERVOUS BREAKDOWN, FATIGUE from OVERWORK and MENTAL and PHYSICAL EXHAUSTION brought about by OVER-INDULGENCE in ATHLETICS will find a corrective in Poehl's Spermin Essence.

It is of SPECIAL CURATIVE VALUE in all DISORDERS of the BLOOD, the NERVES, and the HEART.

Sold in original bottles under the warranty of the ORGANO THERAPEUTIC INSTITUTE of Professor VON POEHL & SONS, by all Chemists, at 8/6 per bottle.

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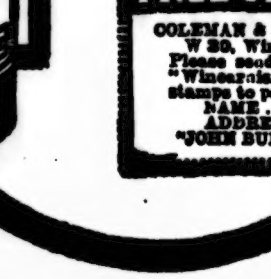

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New Life for the Weak, Renewed Strength for Invalids, a Wealth of Health for Everyone.

To *instantly* invigorate—to permanently strengthen—to *safeguard* you against illness and disease—to make you healthier and happier—*that* is the mission of "Wincarnis." As you take your wineglassful of

WINCARNIS

daily you will *feel* yourself getting stronger, and you will experience a delicious increase of vigour, vitality, and *reserve strength* as the rich, revitalised blood goes dancing through your veins, making your whole body tingle and glow with *new life*.

Test Wincarnis at our Expense.

Send the Coupon below, and by return of post you will receive a liberal trial bottle of "Wincarnis."

FREE TRIAL COUPON

COLEMAN & CO., LTD.
W 30, Wincarnis Works, Norwich.
Please send me a Free Bottle of "Wincarnis." I enclose three penny stamps to pay carriage.
NAME .....
ADDRESS .....
"JOHN BULL," March 4, 11.

RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.

("*Larry Lynx*" *of* The People, "*Double U. L.*" *of* Lotinga's Weekly, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* The Globe.)

Prophetic.

The soldiers' meeting, with one or two open "plums" to deal with, and heralded by the usual preliminary day, ought to give success to whichever Gore runs in the Liverpool Trial Steeplechase, and for preference I hope it will be Jerry M—whilst similarly Escott's representative, possibly Meridian, would take the Warren Plate. On Friday it is obvious that whichever Mr. McCalmont rides, and I expect it will be Vinegar Hill, must take the Gold Cup, whilst Angels Path is good for the Maiden Plate. On the Saturday Wardstown ought to beat the rest in the Tallyho Plate, Johnstown Lad or Judas (whichever is sent) for the Military Handicap, and, despite Montreal and Himan having been kept for the race, and the "office" confidence in Forerunner II., I should think of nothing else to beat

Briery

for the Imperial Cup.

Every week we are inundated with complaints from people who have been defrauded by bogus football accountants. To a very great extent it serves them right, as instead of accepting fictitious odds offered them by strangers, they could entrust their business to a reliable firm, like that of Bert Fry, Flushing, Holland, and be sure of receiving their winnings.

The Well-known Liverpool Sportsmen

FRED GOLL & ALF BIRCHALL

beg to announce that they have books open on

Lincolnshire Handicap, Grand National.

Apply for terms, etc., to FLUSHING, HOLLAND. Id. post-card

J. McLAUCHLAN,

Estab. 19 years. { Turf Accountant, etc., FLUSHING, HOLLAND.

Write for Price List, Rules, Ready-reckoner, etc.

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Member of Tattersall's.

John Bull, May 14th, 1910, says:—

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Football.

Half-time sheets issued. Enormous increase of odds.

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No Limit for Doubles on Future Events. Longest odds offered by any proved reliable agent. No limit at S.P. whether odds on the favourite or no t

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Why send your money abroad, when you can get Longer Odds & Quicker Settlement at home? For Rules & Terms write or phone.
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THE RACING STUD, the well-known powerful turf combine (Est. 1900), Praised by "Sporting Life," Larry Lynx of "The People," "John Bull," etc., have the PEA for the Lincolnshire (can give Forerunner, etc., 2 st). Also "Nat." gem. Send stamped address quick. 57, High Road, Turnham Green, W.

By 'PHONE, WIRE, or LETTER.

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PAUL COVERDALE,

Turf Accountant.

NO LIMIT, NO COMMISSION.

BOOKS NOW OPEN ON

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DOUBLE EVENTS A SPECIALITY.

Special facilities for transmitting commissions.

Letters with Commissions posted up to 12 o'clock of morning of race are accepted.

Motto, "PRIVACY."

If desired, cheques are signed with a *nom de plume* or payments transmitted in Bank Notes, Money Orders, or Postal Orders, by registered Post to clients' addresses, thus giving all transactions absolute privacy.

Write for my Illustrated Book of Sporting Records for 1911, the most interesting publication ever offered to the Sporting Public, also my terms for

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"The Sporting Public are indeed indebted to Mr. Douglas Stuart. The number of concessions made to Sportsmen during the past year or so would astonish the 'backer' of the past, but every one of these concessions originated through the liberality of Douglas Stuart:—He may be copied, but to him belongs the credit of Originating every modern concession in favour of the backer."

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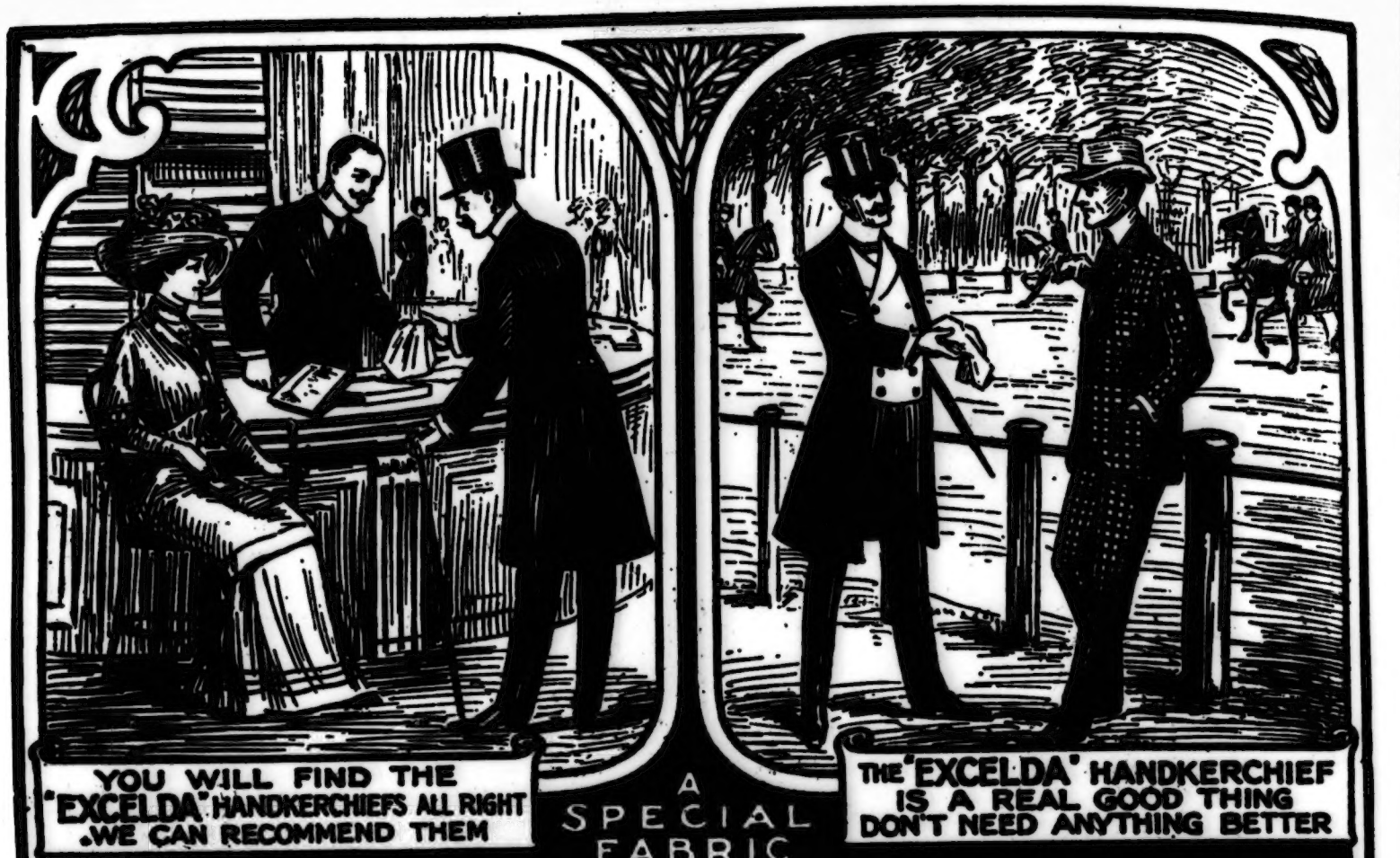
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THE "EXCELDA" HANDKERCHIEF IS A REAL GOOD THING DON'T NEED ANYTHING BETTER

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Gent.'s Size 6½d. each or 6/- per doz.

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